

HISTORY *of the*  
Y. M. C. A.  
*in the* LEMANS AREA





Class □ 639

Book . Y7 A'6

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Y7A6  
1920

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JUL 13 1920

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# Y. M. C. A.—Summary of Service—A. E. C.

## PERSONNEL—

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Men Secretaries .....	249	284	289	231	312	305
Women Secretaries .....	58	109	133	130	268	329
Total .....	307	391	422	361	580	634
Army Detail .....	100	168	175	183	165	160
Civilians .....	1	6	30	52	50	45

## TRANSPORTATION—

One-Ton Trucks .....	...	...	...	10	35	28
Big Trucks .....	12	10	10	15	15	5
Touring Cars .....	18	23	28	42	76	76
Camionettes .....	16	20	59	53	66	66
Motorcycles .....	1	...	...	...	2	...
Total .....	47	53	97	120	194	175
Garages .....	...	1	3	3	4	4

## UNITS OPERATED—

Tents .....	46	70	67	61	60	60
Huts or Halls .....	60	136	80	93	90	90
Rooms .....	55	34	99	65	65	65
Miscellaneous .....	5	46	56	90	83	83
Total .....	166	286	302	309	298	298
Dry Canteens .....	102	164	167	Discontinued		
Wet Canteens .....	29	52	60	80	83	90
Officers' Clubs .....	5	5	10	12	13	13
Theatres .....	8	23	22	19	19	19
Rolling Canteens .....	2	5	7	15	18	26
Men Served .....	90,000	225,500	315,000	675,000	785,000	875,000

## ENTERTAINMENT DEPARTMENT—






Number Stations Reached .....	75	110	175	175	175	175
Entertainment Furnished .....	1,000	1,307	2,554	4,250	3,914	3,500
Attendance .....	680,000	800,000	1,750,000	3,500,000	2,800,000	2,000,000
Soldier Shows .....	400	450	1,000	1,500	1,492	900

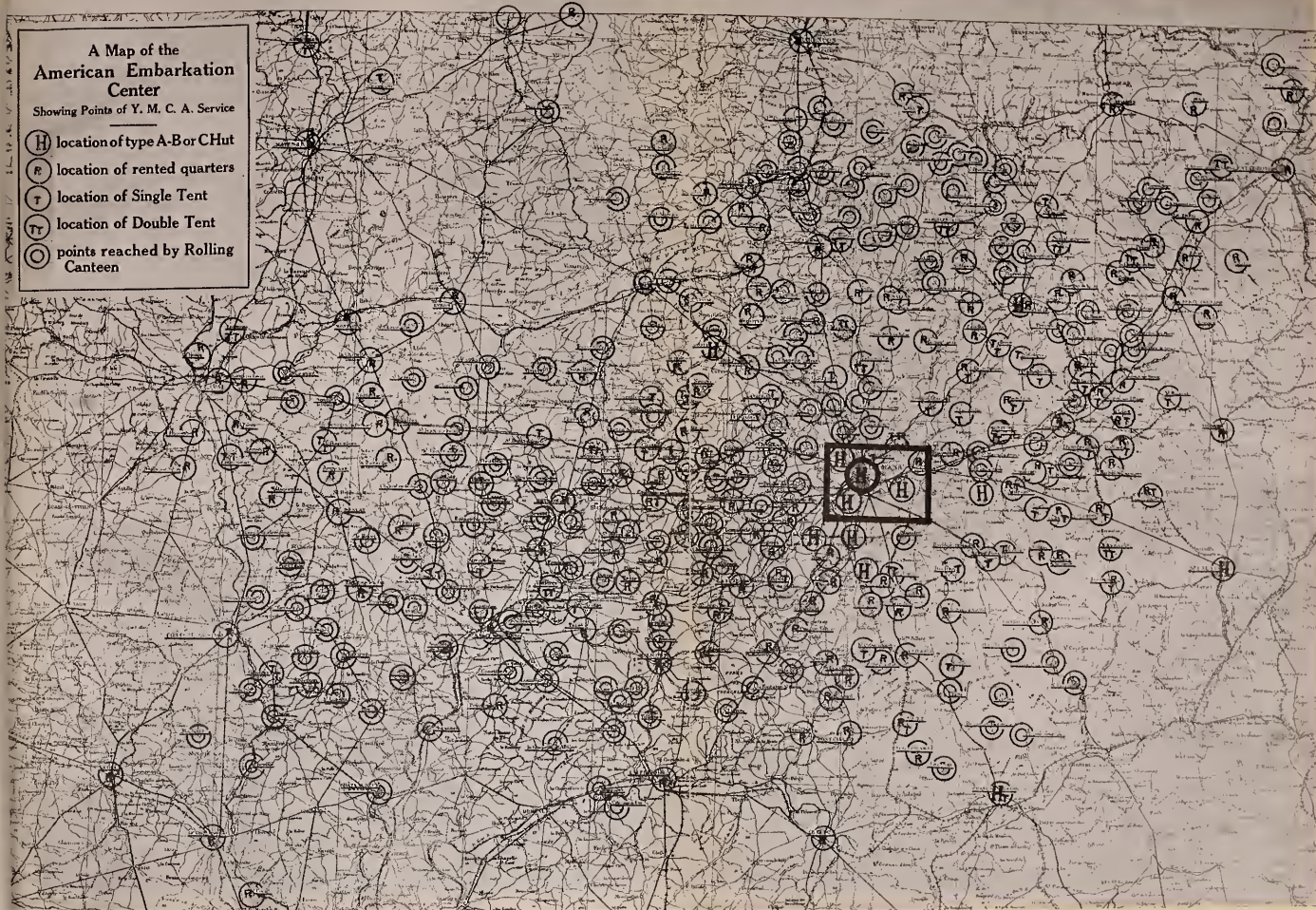


# REGION - OF - LE - MANS

## A Map of the American Embarkation Center

Showing Points of Y. M. C. A. Service

-  location of type A-B or CHut
-  location of rented quarters
-  location of Single Tent
-  location of Double Tent
-  points reached by Rolling Canteen





# CINEMAS—To June 15

Stationary .....	40	45	51	52	81	44
Portable .....	...	3	2	13	29	36
Shows Furnished .....	300	481	754	1,800	2,047	913
Attendance .....	316,000	275,000	585,000	762,000	954,000	408,366

## RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT—

Services Held .....	250	637	1,098	624	650	470
Attendance .....	40,000	135,000	225,000	178,642	165,000	160,000
Literature Distributed .....	...	85,941	272,587	81,333	92,000	64,240
Bibles Distributed .....	9,000	9,000	9,645	9,500	9,400	1,600
Mass Singing—Song Books Distributed ..	...	...	50	15,100	25,200	60,000
Men Reached .....	...	...	19,000	46,000	45,000	75,000

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT—

Games, Participants .....	198,234	497,972	508,371	640,271	818,130	491,680
Games, Spectators .....	326,668	602,509	1,101,597	1,108,934	1,034,640	1,017,302
Pieces Equipment Furnished .....	3,824	7,382	17,586	24,005	11,758	3,592

## EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT—

Special Lectures .....	150	150	160	125	152	92
Attendance .....	56,000	35,000	40,000	36,000	45,000	30,000
Newspapers Distributed .....	55,000	71,000	100,000	150,000	310,000	221,000
Magazines Distributed .....	3,000	3,000	22,000	22,000	20,000	15,000
Educational Classes—Attendance .....	131,638	946,515	1,413,008	353,464	Discontinued April 15	
Sight Seeing, Number Served .....	...	1,050	2,525	2,475	2,430	1,625
Shopping Trips .....	...	...	150	175	200	250

N. B.—No record is made for December, as comprehensive figures are not available.

# SUMMARY OF SERVICE



## IN THE EMBARKATION CENTER

From DECEMBER 1918  
to JULY 1919

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COMPILED AND EDITED BY REGIONAL STAFF AT LE MANS

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### *Under Direction of*

HELEN SINCLAIR.....	<i>Editor-in-Chief</i>
V. O. WINKENWIEDER.....	<i>Managing Editor</i>
HALLIE JAMESON.....	<i>Associate Editor</i>
JAMES E. TRACY.....	<i>Associate Editor</i>
BLANCHE C. GRANT.....	<i>Photographer</i>
M. E. NELLUMS.....	<i>Statistician</i>

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Credit is accorded to the U. S. A. Signal Corps for much of the photography appearing in this history.

Acknowledgment is also made to the *Stars and Stripes* for the use of cuts of divisional insignia.

Certain valuable statistical information is submitted through the courtesy of A. E. C. General Headquarters.

N. B.: In submitting lists of personnel in connection with each unit of the region, excepting those serving particular divisions, it was found to be impracticable, because of the constant changes taking place, to make up any one list to cover the whole period, hence those appearing herein should be understood to be the personnel serving as of June, 1919.

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Big Trucks .....	12	10	10	15	15	5
Towing Cars .....	18	23	28	42	76	76
Caminettes .....	16	20	59	53	66	66
Motorcycles .....	1	...	...	...	2	...
Total .....	47	53	97	120	194	175
Garages .....	...	1	3	3	4	4

## UNITS OPERATED—

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Huts or Halls .....	60	136	80	93	90	90
Rooms .....	55	34	39	65	85	83
Miscellaneous .....	36	27	27	30	298	83
Total .....	169	288	302	309	Discontinued	298
Dry Cell .....	102	164	107	80	83	90
Wet Cell .....	20	52	60	12	13	13
Officers' Clubs .....	5	5	10	19	19	19
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Attendance .....	681,000	800,000	1,730,000	3,500,000	2,900,000	2,000,000
Soldier Shows .....	400	450	1,000	1,300	1,492	900

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Men Reached .....	...	...	19,000	46,000	45,000	75,000

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Games, Participants .....	198,234	497,972	508,371	640,271	818,130	491,680
Games, Spectators .....	326,688	602,506	1,101,797	1,888,994	1,604,640	1,017,202
Prices Equipment Furnished .....	3,824	7,382	17,586	24,065	11,758	3,592

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Attendance .....	56,000	35,000	40,000	36,000	45,000	30,000
Newspapers Distributed .....	...	71,000	100,000	150,000	310,000	221,000
Magazines Distributed .....	3,000	3,000	22,000	22,000	20,000	15,000
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Sight Seeing, Number Served .....	...	1,050	2,525	2,475	2,430	1,625
Shopping Trips .....	...	...	150	175	200	250

N. B.—No record is made for December, as comprehensive figures are not available.





## LE MANS—A MILITARY CENTER



LE MANS has been a military center from medieval times and was the training center for soldiers of three nations during the recent war. French artillery was trained in the region, and after the beginning of the World War, Belgian troops were brought here for re-organization and training. When America entered the war it was only natural that her troops should train in this historic spot.

After many troops had passed through Le Mans it became the training area for the Eighty-third Division in command of Major-General Glenn. After the signing of the armistice, G. H. Q., A. E. F., searched for a center where, during the process of demobilization, the American Army could be sent to complete final arrangements for sailing for America. From a geographical standpoint no more central place could be found, because Le Mans is almost equally distant from the embarkation points, Bordeaux, Brest, St. Nazaire and Le Havre, with direct railway communication to each. Therefore, it was chosen as the center for embarkation troops.

Up until this time the Le Mans area was a part of the S. O. S., but on December 15, 1918, it was taken from that branch and made a separate unit known as the American Embarkation Center, or the A. E. C. The region consisted of the following camps and areas: Le Mans Depot Division (Classification Camp, Spur Camp, Camp Etat, Overhaul Park, Salvage Camp, Parigne-L'Evegne, and several other units in and about the city.) Forwarding Camp, Belgian Camp, and these areas: Ecommoy, La Suze, Alencon, Sable, Conlie, Ballon, Montfort, La Ferte-Bernard, Mayenne, Laval, Chateau-Gontier and Rennes. All except the last three are Divisional areas.

In making Le Mans the Embarkation Center for the movement of troops on the part of the army, brought a corresponding change in the Y. M. C. A. organization, and the Le Mans region was established, which from the baby region grew to be the largest in the whole A. E. F.

## WELFARE WORK IN A. E. C.

*By* BRIG. GEN. GEORGE S. SIMONDS, *U. S. Army Commander*



THE AMERICAN Embarkation Center was established in Le Mans (Sarthe), on December 15, 1919, to provide a concentration point at which a maximum of 200,000 transient troops per month could be received, cared for, prepared in detail to meet embarkation requirements and dispatched to various ports.

In July, 1918, the Second Depot Division formed from the Eighty-third Division was established in Le Mans and began to function as a replacement depot about August 1. It continued as such until after the armistice. With the beginning of the movement of troops homeward, they commenced to arrive in the Le Mans areas preparatory to embarkation. The flow thus started in the opposite direction. Instead of preparation for service at the front it became a center of preparation of the troops for return to the United States and to their normal pursuits. To meet the new problems the American Embarkation Center was organized as above stated.

To care for the large number of troops to be sent through, eight divisional billeting areas were organized. These, with the Forwarding Camp, Belgian Camp, Classification Camp and a number of smaller camps provided for a maximum capacity of about 325,000 men.

By June 30, 1919, a total of about 625,000 officers and enlisted men passed through the center for embarkation to the United States. To administer such an establishment it was necessary to provide a headquarters and staff of considerable magnitude. This was done with a general staff in control, organized along the lines of the general staff at general headquarters. In addition to the usual military problems of providing food, clothing and shelter, and administration in general, the special problems were presented of reëquipping and reclothing the men coming from the front; of delousing and cleaning them up; of cleaning up the records of organizations, which in the exigencies of the service were necessarily in arrears, and of the thousands of individual casualties who, through separation from their organizations, required special measures taken with regard to their records; and the great problem of providing for the physical and moral welfare of these great numbers who no longer had the incentive of training for the great struggle of the ages, but were, nevertheless, confronted with the no less important question of preparation for return to their normal pursuits, which had been so abnormally disturbed, and to which disturbance the nation had so nobly responded.

All of these problems were worked out through the ways and means provided by the military organization which was charged with their solution. And it is only the latter one, *i. e.*, the provision for the welfare of the returning troops that will be touched upon here. This is worthy of special mention in this summary, for the reason that in the solution of this problem the aid was invoked of all the civilian societies operating in the A. E. C. The Y. M. C. A., the American Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Welfare Board and the American Library Association were all represented. In accordance with the general policy announced from General Headquarters, the activities of all these societies were placed under the control of the first section of the General Staff, G-1, and a sub-section with staff officers in control was charged with direct supervision of the work. The chief of the sub-section was held directly responsible for the co-ordination of the various welfare activities; that proper military control was exercised; that the civilian heads were given proper support; and that proper results were obtained.

Without exception every society responded whole-heartedly to the plan provided. Each and every one fell into the general scheme, they met with a high degree of efficiency every demand made upon them, and they coöperated in a fine spirit with the military authorities and with each other.

The magnitude of this work has far exceeded anything that was at first contemplated and the results speak for themselves. This feature of the work of the A. E. C. is worthy of special mention, for it differs somewhat from the general military problem and it has furnished here a striking example of what can be accomplished through the non-military agencies where they are brought under one control, where their efforts are coöordinated, and where they coöperate as they have done so cordially and so effectively here.

The writer desires to make of record the high appreciation the military authorities of these headquarters have of the aid which the members of these civilian societies have rendered to the army in this center, from the very beginning of its existence. It has been a fine exemplification of the spirit of working for the great results which has animated the A. E. C. throughout its magnificent undertaking and accomplishment in the Great War. And particular appreciation is due the women of these societies, who have toiled so earnestly and efficiently in this work, and in fulfilling so faithfully the high traditions of American womanhood have kept ever before us the ideals for which we fought.

# FOREWORD

*By O. L. FERRIS, Regional Director*



THE PROBLEM of organization for the effective carrying on of the "Y" program in the American Embarkation Center was unusually difficult, due to the very rapid changes in the military plans and the consequent speedy movement of the troops in and out of the area. Combat Divisions arrived with little previous advice and took their departure on short notice, often contrary to pre-arranged plans. Divisions came into the area and remained for a period of four months, while others spent less than a week here. Aside from the regular combat Divisions the problem of handling the large numbers of casuals and S. O. S. troops was stupendous, from a welfare standpoint particularly, inasmuch as the latter classes were not accompanied by a static welfare personnel as were the regular organized Divisions.

¶ A glance at the map of the region reveals the all-comprehensive nature of the "Y" service here. The maximum service seems to have been reached in the months of March and April, at which time there were over 300 "Y" stations throughout the area, and in addition thereto there were operating at that time 15 rolling canteens, which made over 500,000 services to troops not reached by the regular stationary units.

¶ The statistical summary for the seven months which mark the operation of the American Embarkation Center reveals a rapid growth of the organization, and the figures therein combined show in a telling way the tremendous quantity of material brought to play in the "Y" activities. These can be classed primarily into four great groups: Entertainment. Athletic, Religious and Educational, each serving in its peculiar way, but each one correlated with all the others.

¶ The statistics herein shown only begin to tell the story of the wide extent and volume of the activities that fell under these departmental heads. The canteen service was considered purely an Army service, though conducted by the "Y," up to the first of April, when it was turned back to the Army. Its stupendousness can best be understood by the tabulation of figures which show the large volume of merchandise that was handled.

¶ At no time prior to June in the history of this region was there an adequate supply of men and women secretaries to serve the troops, and the figures of personnel serving fell far short of telling the story.



The untiring efforts and sacrificial spirit of the men and the women secretaries are known only to those who were intimately associated with them, and the human interest stories and commendatory letters are multitudinous. Those quoted herein are not to be considered of a personal nature, but rather as illustrating only these intimate phases of the Y. M. C. A.'s contact with the A. E. F.

¶ The ability of the "Y" secretary to associate with him the soldier detail made it possible to handle the tremendous task. It would have been quite impossible without this assistance on the part of the Army, its officers and men. The quality of service has been well understood by those who observed the places of trust in which these details were placed and by those who observed the character of these men, many of whom were decorated for bravery on the field of battle. Faithful service to the "Y" was often rewarded by discharge from the Army and advent into the "Y" as a regular secretary.

¶ The uniform success of the women secretaries is one of the outstanding lights of "Y" service. No task was found too small or too large, too difficult, too arduous, nor too complicated for the woman secretary to handle successfully. It would have been impossible to put over the "Y" program as was done without the women secretaries. Their success and the demand for their services are clearly demonstrated by the figures which reveal the steady growth in numbers of women secretaries in the region.

¶ The problem of billeting in the outlying areas of the Le Mans region constantly taxed the resourcefulness of the "Y," not only in taking care of its personnel comfortably, but in providing necessary space for its activities.

¶ The entire lack of anything but the ordinary small living room in many of the French villages made it necessary to erect tents in scores of places. The quaintness of many of these small rooms and halls that were available and the way in which they were adapted as "Y" huts, as well as the unusually attractive decorations and re-arrangements that transformed them, is the best testimony of the resourcefulness of the respective secretaries. The conversion of dreary French cafes, of ancient stone barns, of ugly fish markets, and of gloomy town halls into cheery "Y's" is a memory that will long live in the minds of the secretaries and of the soldiers that were thrown together in these stations.

¶ The Y. M. C. A. organization in the region falls into three periods; the months of December and January under the regional directorship of Mr. D. W. Weist, of Cleveland, Ohio, the months of February,

March and April under the regional directorship of A. G. Bookwalter, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the months of May and June under the regional directorship of Mr. O. L. Ferris, of Portland, Oregon. During each of these administrations there was the heartiest coöperation and fellowship between the Association and the military authorities, and there was the constant feeling on the part of the Association that it existed as an integral part of the Army and that it was playing an important part in the successful handling of the large numbers of troops that were passing through the area.

¶ During these periods there was likewise the most helpful and friendly coöperation between the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus, the American Red Cross, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the American Library Association (Salvation Army was not represented in the region). Many undertakings were handled jointly by these societies and at many points the same activities building housed not only the "Y" workers, but those of one or more of the other societies. The "Y" not only provided its entertainment, cinema and inspirational lectures, etc., for its own centers, but likewise supplied them to each of the other welfare societies without qualification. The demand on American women for social activities made it possible for the Association to have its women secretaries participate in dancing at various huts of the other societies as well as those entirely under the supervision of the Association, and the petty jealousies that were reported in other sections between these societies were entirely absent in this region.

¶ The same friendliness of feeling that marked the Association's contact with the Army and with the militarized Welfare Societies likewise manifested itself in a marked degree in the Association's contact with the allied peoples of the region. Many Franco-American occasions were participated in and jointly managed by the Association, and the constant consultation by the good French people of Le Mans with the Association looking toward friendly feeling between the Americans and the French, demonstrated the respect which the French people hold for the Association.

¶ In this region the "Y," in addition to the large work for the members of the A. E. F., conducted special work in the Foyers des Soldats for the French soldiers stationed there. It also conducted with outstanding success "Y" centers in the various Polish Camps for a long time found in the region, and supplied a secretary and equipment for work among the Chinese laborers attached to the French army.

¶ In presenting this summary of service of the Association in this region, it is my desire to acknowledge keen appreciation for the large service in the perfection of the organization of the "Y" program by the administration's of D. W. Weist and A. G. Bookwalter, and the same keen appreciation for the coöperation and friendliness on the part of the military commands of the A. E. C., those of General E. F. Glenn, General Eli K. Cole, General George W. Read, and General George S. Simonds.

¶ It should be understood that the organization known as the Le Mans Region Y. M. C. A., was intended to cover the entire bounds of the area known as the American Embarkation Center, and that in addition thereto it constantly reached out to isolated and miscellaneous units of military police, of engineers, and labor battalions located far beyond the military bounds of the A. E. C. Approximately it served a monthly average of 10,000 troops in addition to those as shown in the military strength of the American Embarkation Center.

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#### REGIONAL STAFF

As of February 1, 1919

D. W. WEIST.....	<i>Regional Director</i>
NELSON POE.....	<i>Assistant</i>
O. L. FERRIS.....	<i>Associate Regional Director</i>
MAUD McDOWELL KOYLE.....	<i>Women's Bureau</i>
A. J. MILES.....	<i>Business Department</i>
B. A. PERKINS.....	<i>Educational Department</i>
CHARLES F. RICH.....	<i>Cinema Department</i>
MADISON COREY.....	<i>Entertainment Department</i>
A. E. MARRIOTT.....	<i>Athletic Department</i>
E. R. NORTH.....	<i>Religious Department</i>
E. N. WATKINS.....	<i>Transportation Department</i>
H. B. MOOK.....	<i>Financial Department</i>
R. H. SKINNER.....	<i>Hut Construction Department</i>
BLANCHE C. GRANT.....	<i>Hut Decoration Department</i>
H. W. BOWMAN.....	<i>Hut Equipment Department</i>
JOHN BASSETT.....	<i>Warehouse</i>





REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1. Entrance Court. 2. Transportation Pool. 3. Direct to Headquarters. 4. Director at His Desk. 5. 71 Rue Chanzy Headquarters. 6. Business Office. 7. Women's Bureau

## REGIONAL STAFF

As of April 1, 1919

A. G. BOOKWALTER.....	<i>Regional Director</i>
NELSON POE.....	<i>Assistant</i>
O. L. FERRIS.....	<i>Regional Business Director</i>
MAUD McDOWELL KOYLE.....	<i>Women's Bureau</i>
C. W. ASHCRAFT.....	<i>Personal Department</i>
E. C. ALDER.....	<i>Educational Department</i>
CHARLES F. RICH.....	<i>Cinema Department</i>
A. E. MARRIOTT.....	<i>Athletic Department</i>
E. R. NORTH.....	<i>Religious Department</i>
R. H. SKINNER.....	<i>Hut Construction Department</i>
BLANCHE C. GRANT.....	<i>Hut Decoration Department</i>
H. W. BOWMAN.....	<i>Hut Equipment Department</i>
J. V. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Transportation Department</i>
FRANK C. BURKHARDT.....	<i>Warehouse Department</i>
ALFRED STOKES.....	<i>Recruiting Department</i>
H. B. MOOK.....	<i>Financial Department</i>
JESSE DODD.....	<i>Postoffice Department</i>
R. D. HALL.....	<i>Activities Department</i>
T. E. LUTES.....	<i>Rolling Canteen</i>

## REGIONAL STAFF

As of June 1, 1919

## EXECUTIVE

O. L. FERRIS.....	<i>Regional Director</i>
A. R. GRIZELLE.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
HARRIET GARDINER.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
J. W. BAILEY.....	<i>Associate Director (Personnel)</i>

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

A. E. JORDAN.....	<i>Business Director</i>
LUCILE P. PIKE.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>

## WOMEN'S BUREAU

MRS. MAUD McDOWELL KOYLE.....	<i>Directress</i>
LUCILLE COUCH.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
EDITH ROBERTS.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
MILDRED F. ROGERS.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>

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## AREA SUPERVISORS

## NORTHEAST AREA

C. R. HENCH.....	<i>Executive</i>
J. L. PUTNAM.....	<i>Business</i>

## NORTHWEST AREA

T. H. FRANCISCO.....	<i>Executive</i>
W. C. MOORE.....	<i>Business</i>

## SOUTHEAST AREA

P. L. EVANS.....	<i>Executive</i>
WM. SHEWRY.....	<i>Business</i>

## SOUTHWEST AREA

H. M. BING.....	<i>Executive</i>
W. W. RHOADES.....	<i>Business</i>

## LE MANS DEPOT

A. T. MORRILL.....	<i>Executive</i>
C. B. SPEER.....	<i>Business</i>

## FORWARDING CAMP

A. K. JENNINGS.....	<i>Executive</i>
O. G. KELLOGG.....	<i>Business</i>

## BELGIAN CAMP

E. M. WALRATH.....	<i>Executive</i>
R. W. SPARKS.....	<i>Business</i>

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## DEPARTMENTS

C. A. WILSON.....	<i>Army Details</i>
A. E. MARRIOTT.....	<i>Athletic</i>

## BILLETING, BAGGAGE AND MAIL

C. W. GEORGE.....	<i>Billeting, Baggage and Mail</i>
S. W. FRIES.....	<i>Cinema</i>
L. H. WATERS.....	<i>Educational</i>
MADISON COREY.....	<i>Entertainment</i>
H. B. MOOK.....	<i>Financial</i>
BLANCHE C. GRANT.....	<i>Hut Decoration</i>
W. E. BALES.....	<i>Ice Cream Factory</i>
W. H. COUSINS.....	<i>Personnel</i>
W. H. WARREN.....	<i>Publicity</i>
HELEN SINCLAIR.....	<i>Records</i>
ARTHUR D. HILTON.....	<i>Religions</i>
T. E. LUTES.....	<i>Rolling Canteen</i>
H. O. MADDUX.....	<i>Salvage (Supply)</i>
C. C. GLEASON.....	<i>Mass Singing</i>
J. V. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Transportation</i>
E. W. JUDD.....	<i>Transportation Pool</i>
F. C. AGNEW.....	<i>Warehouse</i>

## PERSONAL DISTRIBUTION

	Men	Women
Le Mans Regional Office.....	47	44
Le Mans Depot Division.....	38	110
Le Mans Transportation.....	19	.....
Le Mans Warehouse.....	2	.....
Special Lectures.....	10	.....
Religious Department Speakers.....	28	.....
Entertainers .....	22	74
Rolling Canteen .....	2	36
Belgian Camp .....	13	.....
Forwarding Camp .....	14	.....
Northeast Area .....	35	10
Northwest Area .....	19	13
Southwest Area .....	23	23
Southeast Area .....	33	19
Total .....	305	329

GRAND TOTAL 634





REGIONAL STAFF—TAKEN JUNE, 1920, ON ELEVENTH CENTURY PORTAL OF LE MANS CATHEDRAL

## Detail of General Expense Le Mans Region

	Dec. Francs	Jan. Francs
Canteen Account .....	8640	.....
Huts and Tents .....	.....	.....
Outlay on Property used as Huts.....	.....	1163
Hut Furniture and Equipment.....	4584.90	2035.25
Local Expense of equipping and maintaining Overseas Workers .....	1815.50	4125
Operation Motor Transport Service.....	2060	7258.14
Division Headquarters Expense .....	3231.10	5207.27
Operating and Maintaining Huts .....	7288.36	2101.75
Entertainment .....	5130.10	3705.20
Athletic and Physical Training, Local.....	271.65	678.15
Educational Commissions .....	2050.35	197.65
Religious Work .....	47.20	63.25
Other Association Service .....	345	3487.73
Regional Headquarters Expense .....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous Expense .....	.....	2474.71
*Totals .....	35464.16	32507.10

\*General expense for June exceeded 500,000 francs.

Canteen Sales, December 1 to June 1.....	10,427,091.79
A. E. F. Remittances, December 1 to June 1.....	2,014,893.52
Free Distribution (Welfare), December 1 to June 1.....	1,173,618.19

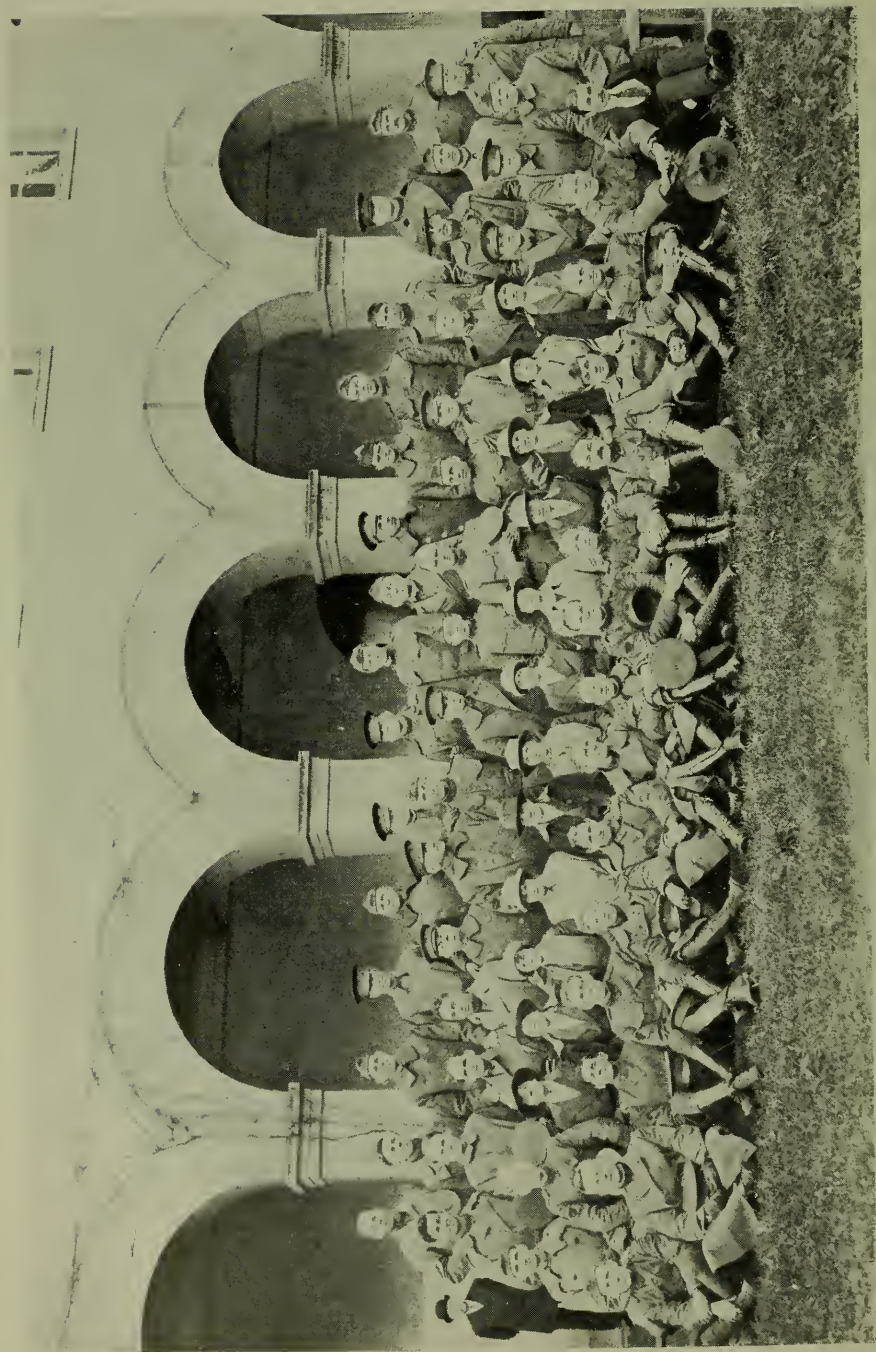
## December 1, 1918-May 31, 1919

Feb. Francs	March Francs	April Francs	May Francs	Ratio in Percentage	Total Francs
810	11372.67	33201.57	60006.95	12. %	114031.19
190	10622.43	1844.91	.....	1.1	12657.34
1080.50	3249.75	9274.50	9321.00	2.3	24088.75
3321.75	2393.85	3508.69	970.05	1.7	16814.49
7472.54	15019.04	10500.24	19300.90	8.6	58233.22
10719.58	25618.41	21571.24	38641.16	11.	105868.53
10294.88	5635.84	7369.91	7249.05	3.9	38988.05
1818.70	11568.22	30275.12	38014.32	9.4	91066.47
8172.50	61601.51	83278.45	129436.15	30.4	291323.91
1509.55	12434.35	10125.05	26842.32	5.3	51861.07
1459.20	1603.90	2797.40	2298.15	1.	10406.65
424.85	812.20	4125.30	12088.42	1.7	17561.22
749	6098.77	4387.01	7991.44	2.2	23058.95
.....	13424.04	22731.12	14759.40	5.2	50914.56
8608.90	13248.38	2837.40	15329.47	4.2	42498.86
56631.95	194703.36	247827.91	382248.78	100.	949383.26

Beginning June 1 all the Canteen Service was without charge.

N. B.—The above have been local expenditures of the Le Mans Region and take no account of the large expenditures of the Paris Headquarters on behalf of the region covering all items for personnel and material.





SECRETARIAL CONFERENCE GROUP—TAKEN APRIL, 1920 IN FAMOUS CLOISTER COURT OF THE RENNES UNIVERSITY



## SECTION II

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### FORWARDING CAMP PERSONNEL

A. K. JENNINGS.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
O. G. KELLOGG.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
CHARLES O. PATE.....	<i>Activities Director</i>
L. G. HAYES.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
THOMAS W. BAKER.....	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
J. R. ANDERSON.....	<i>Athletic Society</i>
HENRY T. BROWN.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
F. G. BALMOND.....	<i>Musical Director</i>
C. F. FRALEY.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
L. S. GILHAM.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
HERBERT H. OREM.....	<i>Hut Secretary, Huts 3 and 4</i>
DAFGIN SANDVED .....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. H. D. WHITE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. F. WROSELL.....	<i>Secretary</i>

### WOMEN CANTEEN WORKERS

MAY PEABODY.....*Directress*

Marie Allen	Helen Estce
Frances Blackney	Helen S. Green
Lucile Butts	Amy Greene
Constance Crawford	Mrs. Kate Greenlaw
Caroline Emerson	Mrs. Katherine Grinnell
Hazerl Ohmert	Marian Scott
Elma C. Pratt	Mrs. Emma Singleton
Jane Rowson	Olive Whiley
Marian Seely	Elizabeth H. Wood

## FORWARDING CAMP



AN EXACT quotation from the Junior Post Chaplain of Forwarding Camp will explain why the history of the Y. M. C. A. activities in this camp can be written only in parallel with that of the operations of the Government.

"The Y. M. C. A. made every human effort to keep abreast of each stride made by the Government in the erection of this tremendous feat of Army operations—the Forwarding Camp. If one wonders why there seems a minimum of showing of Y. M. C. A. operations during the months of October, November and December of 1918, that one must remember that the Government was housing its thousands of men on the rush to the front in their own pup tents. This was indicative of one or both of two conditions; supplies for permanent buildings could not be had; or the Government did not yet realize that the Forwarding Camp would be a permanent institution of the war, much less that it would eventually grow into the biggest and busiest camp in France.

"And one must remember also that those were days of doing, and not of keeping records. Personnel was scarce, the needs were overwhelming, and the Y. M. C. A. was given a Q. M. job without Q. M. transportation. The services rendered by the Y. M. C. A., the difficulties surmounted, the ingenuity, determination, and untiring energy displayed by the secretaries in their efforts to function to the needs of thousands of troops that were constantly being rushed through the Forwarding Camp, is another one of the stories of the war that cannot be written. Tremendous as were the operations of the Government at the Forwarding Camp, the Y. M. C. A. kept abreast of them!"

Undoubtedly the work done by the Y. M. C. A. in its struggles to keep alongside of the gigantic wheels of the Government's machinery at the Forwarding Camp is best indexed by the time of erection and the story of its five biggest huts, and its hangar.

Hut No. 1, "Hurrah Hut." was erected in early October, of 1918. Its dimensions were 65x185 feet. From October to January, this hut was the only place of congregation or recreation within the reach of the thousands of men who went to make up the great machinery which constituted the Forwarding Camp. It was the only refuge from the rain and the sleet outside or the uncomfortable mud which was the floor to their pup tents. Its few benches offered the only relief from the eternal standing, and its stoves the only place for a bit of warmth.

A dry canteen was in operation from the beginning, and the long lines of men waiting for smokes were literally endless. Three times a week there were movies and on the other nights there were soldier talent shows inspired and directed by Y. M. C. A. secretaries. To accommodate the great crowds of men eager for some snatch of entertainment before they should leave for their long stay in the trenches, the very partitions had to be removed at times to accommodate the mass of khaki-clad bodies that positively swayed with the movements among them. All available seats were always filled hours before the start of the performance, the men sitting patiently missing their suppers in order to hold a seat for the performance.

As the other huts were gradually erected, this first one took on more and more an air of individuality of its own as the headquarters hut of the camp. But its hospitable doors were always open, to the very end of the life of the A. E. F., to thousands of soldier boys, who seemed to find this hut a favorite loitering place. And these same doors, humbly swinging on their crude hinges, hastily constructed by strong, quick hands of young Americans who knew or thought little of the fine arts of old, deserve to be classed, when Time shall have given its corrective perspective of the things worth while in this war, with the doors of the proud old cathedral which has reared its majestic mass on the heights of Le Mans for nearly seven hundred years. There were times when the doors of Harrah Hut offered the only sanctuary to thousands of crusaders who had crossed seas to a foreign land to fight in a cause that was holy.

Hut No. 2 (75x150 feet) was built in January of 1919, when nearly 30,000 troops swarmed over the camp—mostly Ninety-first and Ninety-second Divisions. The situation of this hut, across the camp from Harrah Hut, made it particularly useful.

As the military authorities formed their plans of a permanent camp to be used for the concentration and forwarding of troops to the coast instead of to the front, General Logan came to a decision that in the center of the camp there should be a big welfare area, containing buildings of all the Welfare Associations.

"Georgia Hut," the Auditorium, and later a huge hangar, were the Y. M. C. A. contribution to this block.

Georgia Hut (45x150 feet) with the usual wet and dry canteen, library, stage, piano, "mother's corner," etc., functioned to an average of 3000 men daily from January to July.

The Auditorium in the Welfare Area of Forwarding Camp had one of the largest and best appointed stages in France. The seating capacity of the house was 2000, and only a sardine could judge its



## FORWARDING CAMP CENTERS

1. Chocolate and Doughnuts. 2. A Typical Canteen Line. 3. Hearthside Hut No. 1.  
 4. "Y" Swimming Pool. 5. Bulletin Boards. 6. Officers' Club. 7. Hut  
 Interior Showing Stage. 8. New Mexico Hut Exterior



standing capacity. During March and April and May, matinees and evening performances of vaudeville, soldier shows, movies, etc., were a daily occurrence. The size of the stage brought the best shows on the A. E. F. circuit in France to Forwarding Camp, and a conservative estimate of the number of men who witnessed performances in this historic playhouse is something like 450,000 men.

In May the hangar (125x125 feet) was opened up for movies and enlisted men's dances. The entertainment department of the Y. M. C. A. and of the Army, working in close conjunction, booked from the Y. M. C. A. circuit out of Le Mans 236 vaudevilles and 284 movies, nine-tenths of which were shown in either the hangar or the Auditorium of the Welfare Center.

#### TWENTY-EIGHTH DIVISION

ARTHUR V. TURNEY.....	<i>Division Secretary</i>
GEO. J. BARNES.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
GEO. N. HOPKINS.....	<i>Accountant</i>
ARTHUR DEVERE HUBBARD.....	<i>Cashier</i>
JOHN G. PERCY.....	<i>Entertainment Director</i>
ARTHUR B. WHEATLEY.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
E. B. WOODS.....	<i>Educational Director</i>
W. B. J. PRETTYMAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
NORMAN BROUGH.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. C. MAGGARGLE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
HERSCHEL HORN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CHAS. W. CREW.....	<i>Secretary</i>
JAMES A. LEE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
C. C. HALDMAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
FRANK P. HAYS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
FRED W. BEAL.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CHAS. DARSIE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
JOHN W. CRENSHAW.....	<i>Secretary</i>
WM. L. COURTRIGHT.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. S. GOODRICH.....	<i>Secretary</i>

#### WOMEN CANTEEN WORKERS

Harriet McKenzie	Margaret Robinson
Katherine Parks	Dorothy Berry
Gertrude Garden	Janet Kunz
Pauline Brown	Kitty Kunz
Mary Wadden	Katherine Beakes
Dora Lewis	Mrs. Cora C. Kennedy



Hut No. 5 "Keystone Hut," was built by the volunteer service of the Twenty-eighth Division—hence its name, from the State of Pennsylvania. In the month of February it became known over the camp that materials were on hand for the erection of a new hut. The place decided upon was within the closely walled jurisdiction of a certain Army tyrant, known as the delousing plant. Some indications of the interest which the men took in the erection of the new hut on its unpopular site may be gathered from the fact that so many men volunteered their services that the hut was erected in the world record time of 17½ hours. Its dimensions are 45x150 feet. The Regional Decorator took particular pains that its walls were attractive and its furniture and decorations pleasing and inviting.

It was to the area of the delousing plant that the men must go first on their return from the front, and they must remain there for a period of from three to ten days—from which there was no outlet or respite. Since Friend Cootie is no respecter of persons, an officers' reading room and club room adjoined the main assembly hall. Many a soldier and officer gratefully expressed his appreciation for the big Keystone Hut in such words as "It certainly is an oasis in this desert" and "It surely has saved our lives."

Wet and dry canteens were in operation from the first, with two "Y" girls and a "Y" man behind the counter.

Officers' Club—Close to Harrah Hut there is a very attractive officers' club and reading room which proved very popular.

#### RELIGIOUS WORK

FROM the very first establishment of Forwarding Camp, the Department of Religious Work for the Y. M. C. A. has been one of the camp's organized and recognized activities. Everything was done to dedicate the huts and equipment of the "Y" service to a recognition of practical religion. No suggestion of sectarian interest or differences was tolerated, and at all times and to all services all men were equally welcome. The cordial recognition of this principle on the part of the

camp authorities put the work of the Y. M. C. A. on the broad plane necessary for the accomplishment of its aims.

Among the outstanding features of the Y. M. C. A. religious service was the following:

Music: Under gifted select leaders supplied with abundant equipment of books and pianos the men were led in wholesome and inspiring songs, humorous, patriotic and religious.

Regular Sunday and mid-week programs: On one night of every week in each building religious meetings were announced and put through, usually with a definite appeal for personal and moral devotion. In addition to the secretaries of the respective huts, there were from six to ten camp secretaries engaged in religious work all the time.

Sunday Schools at 9:30 a. m., after the American fashion, supplemented the morning and evening meetings, and the Holy Communion was administered in an entirely non-sectarian way once a month.

The Chaplains, both of the moving and permanent personnel, were used continually, nearly half the meetings addressed being served by them. At any time in any building the Catholic or Jewish men or ministers were cordially welcomed to conduct their separate offices of worship and until each had been supplied with a building for their own use the privilege was often used.

The Literature: It would be impossible accurately to estimate the value and volume of the service to the men in magazines, song books, brochures, books and parts, such as songs, Gospels, the most scientific and attractive hygiene literature and the like. In addition to the constant service of the various reading rooms incorporated in each building, twice or more each week supplies of reading matter of the most select and rational type were distributed to the centers of the camp organization; and when enough matter could be obtained, outgoing trains were furnished.

The attendance through the winter and spring taxed the capacity of the buildings; and even with the long evenings of the summer and the lure of the outdoor sports the attendance was good.

#### ATHLETICS

WITH the advent of March and good weather athletics opened up at Forwarding Camp with a swing and zest commensurate with the impatience of the men at their long confinement to inadequate quarters. Plans were laid and executed with the unbelievable speed characteristic of Forwarding Camp. Baseball diamonds appeared in every available spot and the number of games in one day in the camp sometimes numbered 34. Every conceivable form of outdoor game was instituted—basketball, boxing in the huge arena where the

bouts could be reviewed by 25,000 men, football, soccer, volley ball, wrestling, tennis, track and in time the good old swimming hole, for which the "Y" supplied swimming suits all day long. It is estimated that the number of men participating in games at Forwarding Camp in the months of May and June reached the half-million mark.

#### BANKING SYSTEM

ONE of the services for which the men of the A. E. F. en route home were the most grateful to the Y. M. C. A. organization of the Forwarding Camp was its assistance to them in getting checks, postoffice orders, and other forms of redeemable notes cashed. The matter of the medium of exchange is a difficult one to any traveler in a foreign country; the A. E. F. did not always find the cashing of checks and the sending of money home easy, even when their organization was stationary. Hence, one may begin to appreciate what it meant to soldiers traveling, unable to take steps on their own initiative, in a country whose currency value fluctuated with the revolution of the Peace Conference, to find the well-organized banking system, such as instituted and maintained at the Forwarding Camp for the service of the transient soldier.

Some of the cases which the Y. M. C. A. banking system met were: Men in camp frequently could not get to town. The department often transmitted telegrams from the camp for them through the French postoffice, both in the matter of sending messages home and of writing home for money.

Many small French towns use their own currency, which other towns refuse to accept. Often the American soldier found himself obliged to accept such currency, only to find when he began his journey to the coast that his money was no good for town shopping, and was not even acceptable to the Government sales commissary. The Forwarding Camp "bank" redeemed such bills, sent them back to the banks of their native area, and so rendered a valuable piece of service to the soldier.

When the camp was first built, the Y. M. C. A. was the only place in camp where a P. O. money order could be cashed, and it was a long time afterwards that the Le Mans postoffice arranged for cashing orders at the camp, and even after the institution of the branch postoffice men wanting to cash a postoffice order were compelled to wait their turn in the interminable soldier line. Soldiers sometimes stood in line two hours and were then shut out by the closing of the clerk's window before they reached their turn. The postoffice was open only during short periods each day, whereas the "Y" bank was practically always open. The policy of the Y. M. C. A. was not to cash money



orders that were more than 60 days old, but the department did the holder of such a note the service of cashing the order at the postoffice window.

Men often had drafts from American to French banks. The only means they had of turning such drafts into money was through the Y. M. C. A., for two reasons; men in camps like Forwarding had no access to any bank, either French or American, unless they were lucky enough to obtain a pass to some good-sized town in the region; and when they were able to reach a French bank, frequently they couldn't get ready money on their drafts, since French banks would receive same only for collection. This is also true of American cashier's checks. Thus, had it not been for the bank established by the Y. M. C. A. at the Forwarding Camp, the thousands of transient troops a day would have had no way to receive French money for their orders and checks. It is also customary for the French banks to make a collection charge upon such checks as they do cash. The "Y" bank paid the soldiers the full amount of his check.

The big sums of money on hand enabled the department to be of assistance often to the regiments in making out payrolls when change could not be had from Le Mans. The same service was also rendered to the Commissary.

Some statistics for the month of March, which was a usual month, are interesting in that they show the amount of business actually transacted by this "Y" bank. Two hundred thousand francs were turned into the Y. M. C. A. headquarters for the month, 658,000 of which came from sales, and 63,000 checked in from incoming trains and dry canteens.

A. E. F. remittances for March amounted to 182,000 francs.

Checks and postoffice orders amounted to 200,000 francs.

Incident to the office of this bank frequent calls were made for advice upon legal and financial matters.

#### EMERGENCY WORK

**N**EXT in importance to maintaining and operating the five huts and the hangar comes what may be headed "Emergency Work," the two most important features of which were the "R. T. O." and the "Forwarding Canteens."

The R. T. O.: At the railroad transportation office, through which all incoming or outgoing troops must pass, is a wooden barracks of 100x25 feet. This was equipped with chocolate boilers, and all available conveniences for record-speed serving. Almost every day during the life of the Forwarding Camp long lines of weary troops were able to



FREE WET CANTEN SERVICE OF FORWARDING CAMP  
 1. Service En Route. 2. "Allez Tout de Suite." 3. Entraining Station. 4. A real Picnic.  
 5. French Kiddies After the Leavings. 6. Get 'em Coming and Going. 7. All  
 Set and Ready. 8. Hot Chocolate and Doughnuts

leave their trains and get a cup of chocolate at the R. T. O. Very often the number served reached ten thousand a day. The record time for serving was under the supervision of Miss Helen Greene, a young lady from the economics department of Texas State University, who with her detail of 21 soldiers broke all records serving hot chocolate to 1400 soldiers in fifteen minutes. The officers remarked on the extraordinary efficiency of the detail machinery; not a laddie ever seemed to get in another's way. The commanding colonel (it was the Eighty-fifth Division being served) remarked, "That is the finest piece of work I have seen in France." All of the stuff served at the R. T. O. was at the expense of the Y. M. C. A.

#### THE FORWARDING CANTEENS

SINCE LE MANS area was the great concentration point of all troops returning to the States through Brest, it was to the Forwarding Camp that fell the greatest period of congestion at the time that the leases of the French towns back in winter quarters were expiring, and the delay in the signing of the armistice was holding troops who were already filling Brest to overflowing. This congestion necessitated unloading hundreds of organizations and marching them out to various towns in the Le Mans area pending further international developments. The French laws specifying only certain points of entraining and detraining made the hikes for the men much harder and longer than would have been necessary for the same purpose on our own territory. Hence the weary, dusty men marching under full pack in the summer heat offered an opportunity for service that the Y. M. C. A. was quick to seize upon. An outline of plans to the proper authorities quickly brought the coöperation of the officers in command of the routes and time of the marches; and two or three hours before a certain big "milk-shake barrage" saw a whirlwind flying around of blue-aproned "Y" girls and khakied soldier-details, the rattle of "beaucoup" G. I. cans, and the heaving of numerous heavy boxes into Y. M. C. A. trucks.

For the plan conceived and executed to perfection past expectation was no less than to meet the troops at some spot about half-way their march, and as they filed by, to serve them with lemonade or milk-shake and cakes in such a systematic way that their rank was not broken, and very little, if any, time was lost. This meant a big preparation. To serve a regiment, or about three thousand men, four girls, with a detail of eight soldiers, and three or four Y. M. C. A. men left the Forwarding Camp with two camionettes, and two heavy trucks loaded with supplies. The question of water is always a big one in France. Permission must be obtained for a place to get the water, and for a



place to make the beverage and then for a place on the road to serve it; for France is verily a land of "Permissionaires." Often the cans of the finished product must be hauled for kilos, owing to these conditions; but even then, the result is more successful than for the liquid to be carried all the way from the kitchens of Forwarding Camp. Four big vats of the cold drink (it was really iced) were set across the road in such a manner that as the troops filed by four abreast (marching formation) each man pauses long enough to get his mess cup or his canteen filled: the formation was not broken. If the officers chose to allow the men to loiter along to drink, they could easily do so with little resulting disorder. The cakes were handed out a little further along in the same orderly manner. It would be hard to describe the gratitude of the hot, thirsty men. As one soldier expressed it, "To meet four smiling, joking American girls standing in the middle of the road of march ready to meet you more than half way with gallons and gallons of ice-cold drink that they had made all for you, was one of the few things that could make hikes in May and June easy."

A "barrage" for a regiment consists of about four hundred gallons of lemonade or milk-shake, and three dozen crates of cakes. Often from Forwarding Camp, as many as three such "barrages" have been put over in one day, and not a day passed in May or June without at least one "barrage."

The actual figures for "Welfare"—the "Y" term for stuff given away—for emergency work at Forwarding, show a total of 121½ tons of sugar, 43,584 cans of milk, 5575 pounds of cocoa, 1158 cases of cakes, with lemons, nutmeg, jam, etc., in proportion.

#### PERSONNEL OF FORWARDING CAMP

AS IS always true of the A. R. F. work of the Y. M. C. A. the strength of Forwarding Camp is neither greater nor weaker than the personnel of its immediate organization. Another maxim quite as infallible is that the strength which any given Y. M. C. A. may attain is no greater than the coöperation won by it from the Army Commanders of the Post.

The willingness, the self-sacrifice, the devotion of the "Y" girls at the busy, overworked Forwarding Camp will be one of the outstanding memories in the mind of the American doughboy, when time has given him a perspective of the high-lights and the shadows of his crucial experiences in France. Programs pinned on the wall outlining the day's work for each girl, gives some idea of the usual routine of a "Y" girl; 9:00 to 12:00, 1:00 to 5:00, lemonade barrage for men marching; 8:00 to 10:00, dancing. No mere man can ever realize just what it means for woman's strength to hold up under such peculiar

physical strains as some of the work in such a day's program entailed and no woman who did not come over and undergo the same experiences can ever realize just what it meant to smile right straight through every minute of every hour of the day, 30 days out of every month. It was the splendid doughboy who realized the heroism of the Y. M. C. A. girl more than anybody else ever has, and it is he who is most generous in his praise of her devotion. And at no place in France has her work been harder or more strenuous or less satisfying, because she could not learn to know the men personally, (since troops were ever moving in and out) than in the Le Mans area. It will take the doughboy at home to tell the real story of the girls of the Forwarding Camp.

#### SOLDIER DETAIL

NO STORY of Y. M. C. A. activities in France could be justly written without a glowing tribute to the "soldier detail." Every secretary, man or woman, feels that praise too high cannot be given to the splendid fellows who, in the first place, were willing to be detailed to "Y" service when they knew that the work was heavy and dirty, that the hours were long and strenuous and the responsibility much more than they would have borne had they remained with their organizations. They never complained at any duty nor any emergency; they entered into the spirit of "helping the buddies out" for eats and smokes and "dope to read" in a manner strongly indicative of the way this war was won. Especially will every "Y" girl who came to France bear in her heart forever a tender memory of thoughtfulness, willingness, the surprising ingenuity, and the unfailing humor of her "soldier detail."

At Forwarding Camp the soldier-detail numbered 185 men. At their head and as right-hand man to the Business Secretary, was Sergeant Earl Furstenberg of Wisconsin. He was sent to Forwarding in December, and spring found him with the key to every wire over the humming Y. M. C. A. activities at his finger tips. As Forwarding Camp grew and the Y. M. C. A. grew, "Fursty" grew a bit ahead always. He has proven one of the busiest and perhaps the most valuable "secretaries" in France. Playing left-bower to the Business Secretary was Sergeant Schutte, who handled the busy "bank" counter of the "Y."

Much of the credit for the success of entertainment in Forwarding Camp belongs to Sergeant Frank Novak, for months the real "Entertainment Officer" at Forwarding Camp.



## BELGIAN CAMP PERSONNEL

E. M. WALRATH.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
R. W. SPARKS.....	<i>Entertainment Secretary</i>
F. F. BUTZ.....	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
RALPH C. WATSON.....	<i>Camp Hospital Secretary</i>
ROLAND BATSON.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
ROSS J. NICHOLS.....	<i>Assistant Athletic Director</i>
DAVID A. SLOAN.....	<i>Athletics</i>
H. W. HYDE.....	<i>Athletics</i>
R. H. LEACH.....	<i>Secretary</i>
RAY WATERS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. C. RUGG.....	<i>Secretary</i>
ALBERT J. CLARK.....	<i>Secretary</i>

## WOMEN CANTEEN WORKERS

Mrs. Vida Sidney, <i>Directress</i>	Miss Alice Logan
Miss Martha Allen	Miss Sallie Massey
Miss Helen Bradley	Miss Alice Reeve
Miss Flora Creech	Miss Helen Spear
Miss Audrey Gernon	Miss Marjorie Tompkins



THE BELGIAN CAMP, or Camp d'Auvours, was taken over from the Belgians for the specific purpose of holding as casuals and forwarding Army Candidate School men to the front. Camp d'Auvours was the military name under the French administration, the camp taking the name Belgian during the recent war. As the loss of Second Lieutenants in the trenches was always fearfully heavy, A. C. S. men from all the schools in France were concentrated at one Post—Belgian Camp—to await assignments to the front. Usually their stay at this camp was short enough, but the first of November of 1918 found some 5000 of them congested there—eager lads to whom the signing of the Armistice came as a disappointment. The fear that they would never receive their commissions, to which they already held certificates, grew to a certainty after November 11, and Belgian Camp was not a happy place.

The first "Y" operations began five days after the opening of the camp by Americans. The first canteen was in the old Belgian welfare house, and the Belgian theatre was bought outright by the "Y." All entertainments were free, of course, until one night a "Y" tragedy happened. The Army borrowed the theatre for a boxing bout to which

soldiers were charged one franc admission. The Captain in charge forgot to make the promised announcement that the bout was given by the Army and not by the "Y." Indignation ran riot. The men almost tore down the building. Belated explanations did not seem to help, and for weeks the unhappiness at Belgian Camp was not at all mitigated by the presence of the Y. M. C. A.

The A. S. C. men were classed as men on special service by the Army—which meant a delay of pay-checks and a miscarrying of mail. The few letters that did filter through from the States, and most of the newspapers, were filled with stories of the "flu" epidemic in America; and where letters could not penetrate, fatal cablegrams often brought news of the death of loved ones and comrades' loved ones at home.

Christmas Eve brought Mrs. Vida C. Sidney of New York and Miss Esther Hatch of Philadelphia to Belgian Camp. The arrival of these "Y" women was indeed a Christmas gift to the men. The few Christmas tree trimmings in their suitcases were brought out and perhaps a hundred men were induced to take some interest in the setting up and decorating of a tree for the refugee children of the neighborhood. Christmas packages were distributed by the "Y" to every soldier in camp, even to those in the guardhouse, and before the holiday week was over nearly every man had at some time examined the Christmas tree and every trinket and tinsel which made it shine.

The old Belgian canteen in which the "Y" was situated was an interior, low-ceiled room of a heavy, clumsy old stone building. On its rough walls some artist or perhaps artists had sketched with skillful hand, but crude materials, events of the war, drinking scenes, portrayal of patriotism of the Belgian homes, the shield of Albert and Elizabeth, placards done with such inscriptions as:

OOST WEST  
T' HU IS BEST

Always inadequate in size for the great numbers of men in camp, the small room was ever filled to overflowing. The buddies used to wait in lines extending out in the sleet and mud outside for their turn at the chocolate counter. On dark, rainy nights this unique canteen, filled with silent, moving bodies of men, the dim candles flickering on the faces of the two "Y" women standing behind the chocolate urn and at the other end on the faces of the soldier detail as they gave out the smokes, formed a Rembrandt picture that is one of the anachronisms of this war.

Gradually the two women and the faithfulness of the men secretaries were winning the confidence of the commissioned sergeants at

Belgian. Their baffling, abrupt way of flinging over the chocolate spigot such remarks as "You know I told you about that letter last month that my wife had the 'flu." Got another one today—She's dead;" gradually changed to personal interviews where more of the aching heart was revealed and more sympathy permitted. When three soft-shelled abri tents were erected out in the open mud to help out the Belgian canteen, it was the men who sought out lumber and laid a snug if rough floor, who made and painted tables and benches, and who very determinedly took the paint brushes from the hands of the "Y" girls and painted the billowing, wavering walls of the tent a glowing brick and green. It was the men who voted upon and chose the color of the bright curtains and lamp shades—and they tabooed yellow because yellow was not becoming to Miss Hatch's complexion.

The old theatre of Belgian Camp should be ranked among the historic playhouses of the American people. The huge old barn-like structure has been packed hundreds of times with khaki-clad lads who were of the very pulse of our nation's heart—whom we were laying as Jacob of old, upon the altar of sacrifice. For a period of nearly five months, the old theatre was the only place of amusement for thousands of such men; indeed, it was the only place of recreation and almost the only place of actual shelter possible for them to reach.

The stage was good, the scenery was of crude tints, painted upon coarse tarpaulin, and the lights, poor as they were, were the treasures of their surroundings. Down under the stage was a cellar which was fitted into a costume factory. An interior decorator by profession was the costume designer, and the soldiers themselves the seamstresses. Their big, heavy fingers that could pull the trigger with such disastrous disturbance to an Emperor's sleep were now arduously bent to the task of sewing plaits in a dancing girl's frock or in whipping snowy lace on a frothy petticoat. The actors wrote their own plays, of necessity, and the performances were frequent and the audiences huge and enthusiastic. Often when one of the "Y" girls had been detained behind the chocolate urn during the performance of a new "creation," the whole show was given over for her benefit when she could come in, and the men saw it all over—this time through her eyes.

Much distress was in Belgian Camp because there was not an American flag. The first one secured was draped about a shield and hung over the center of the stage. Later there came a time when many, many flags made the old barn-like theatre look like a different place; and still later, when a new hangar with fine equipment and stage ap-

pointments came to replace the old Belgian theatre for the big shows; but to those who lived at this camp during the dreary Winter months, the old playhouse will ever hold a tender place in memory's picture gallery.

February brought the men pay-checks, and better news from the States and, best of all, orders to go home; and Belgian Camp became thenceforth a forwarding camp for small units of disintegrated divisions on their way to the coast. Portions, usually the engineers, of the 27th, 30th, 35th, 80th, 85th and 91st Divisions passed through Belgian Camp, besides the S. O. S. troops in June and July and those of the Rifle Meets.

\* \* \* \* \*

In bright contrast to the deadly, discouraging days when the lone Belgian canteen and theatre were the only places for one spark of cheer or reminder of home in all Belgian Camp, one might throw the spotlight on the gay scenes at Belgian during the A. E. F. rifle contest of May, or still better, on the Inter-Allied competitions of June.

Sunshine is always an ally in France; the cool shade of the green young forest that is the natural setting of Camp d'Auvours gave the place almost the air of a summer camp in the woods. Scattered at various points of vantage over the now modernly equipped camp, were three fine new huts, ranking in size, equipment, and attractiveness among the very best in France. A well organized machinery of religious department, athletic department, sing-songs, banking, rolling canteen, women's department, with local barracks for the "Y" girls, etc., brought the Y. M. C. A. up to standard which made satisfactory functioning to the needs of the officers and men at least a possibility.

The regular-sized hangar built by the "Y" in the spring for athletic contests had been doubled in size by the Army, and a stage with excellent scenery and a lighting system of some 250 bulbs made this playhouse the biggest and best equipped in France. Naturally, it brought the Belgian Camp the best show talent in the A. E. F. An attractive officers' club, built in rustic style almost to the effect of a hunting lodge, was the lure with which the "Y" attempted to hold the hundreds of young officers held in France for the shoots, at the camp during the evenings. Dances two or three evenings during each week with the "Y" girls of the camp and from various other points in the Le Mans area as dancing partners, together with golf courses and tennis courts built by the Army, the horseback riding, and the shooting, converted Belgian Camp into a veritable leave area. A huge





1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

## BELGIAN CAMP CENTERS

1. Canteen Indiana Hut. 2. Veranda Officers' Club. 3 and 4. Blue Ridge Hut, Interiors.  
5. Old Belgian Hut. 6. Interior Officers' Club



tent was erected for the Inter-Allied enlisted men, and especial attempts were made to feature the native customs of the visitors, such as serving hot tea in the afternoons to the Canadians, Australians, and English, etc. Frequent dances were arranged for the enlisted men, with the American soldiers as hosts and English and American girls as dancing partners.

The Army recognized the fact that it was in the power of the Y. M. C. A. to create much of the international feeling of goodwill between the men of many nations who had gathered at a precarious time for a celebrated sport contest at an American camp on French soil. Every Y. M. C. A. secretary at Belgian Camp and every girl in the area caught the spirit of spreading the propaganda of goodwill, and did his or her utmost to make a social success of this historic parting sport-pageant of the A. E. F.

The huts erected in the spring at Belgian Camp were "Blue Ridge," "Indiana," "Convalescent Hut and Tent," "Library Tent," "Class Tent," "Officers' Club," "Welfare Hangar," "Theatre Hangar," and "Athletic House," quite a showing indeed for our spotlight, but one's appreciation instinctively turns back—back before even the time of Camp d'Auvours, when this same spot saw the first experiments on French soil of Wilbur Wright with his monoplane; back to the three weary years of Belgian expatriation and heroic struggles; back to the drab, monotonous days when the impatient Yanks chafed at the restraint which held them like idle village dullards when their fiery spirits were tugging at the leash; and one instinctively throws the searchlight back for one last lingering look at the old Belgian canteen and theatre—historic relics on a historic spot.



## DEPOT DIVISION PERSONNEL

AS OF JUNE 1

A. T. MORRILL.....	<i>Area Supervisor</i>
C. B. SPEER.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
A. E. TAYLOR.....	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
M. E. NELLUMS.....	<i>Accountant</i>
H. W. GIBSON.....	<i>Activities Secretary</i>
JAMES CLARK.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
J. C. BLACK.....	<i>Assistant Athletic Secretary</i>

The ten units comprising the Depot Division are those which follow here in order, all being situated in or close to the city of Le Mans.

C. B. FISH.....	<i>Classification Camp</i>
P. H. LIKES.....	<i>Camp Etat</i>
O. J. HICKS.....	<i>Salvage Camp</i>
HAROLD ROBERTS.....	<i>Parique L'Eveque</i>
GEORGE W. FARR.....	<i>Spur Camp</i>
M. R. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Overhaul Park</i>
MRS. G. M. WARDEN.....	<i>York Harbor Hut</i>
J. L. TAIT.....	<i>Central Hut</i>
W. W. WEBER.....	<i>Kansas Hut</i>
AGNES LATIMER BACON.....	<i>Library</i>



## CLASSIFICATION CAMP PERSONNEL

CHARLES B. FISH.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
CHARLES I. RAMSEY.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
CHARLES A. CANTWELL.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
MRS. JOHN R. STERLING.....	<i>Hut Mother</i>
MISS S. THEODORE CURTIS.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS ETHEL RICE.....	<i>Canteen</i>



NOTABLE AMONG the several large Army camps in the Le Mans area was the Classification Camp, where as many as 16,000 men were quartered at one time. The camp occupied the Chanzy Barracks, which were erected in 1879, and used by the French Government for training recruits. The Barracks derived the name from General Chanzy, a French General of the Franco-Prussian war, who commanded the Army of the Loire and defended Le Mans against the Prussians.

The camp is really a group of imposing stone buildings surrounded by a high stone wall, entrance being gained to a large courtyard through a wide double gateway which faces the terminus of Rue Gambetta. The gateway is flanked by two sentry boxes built when the Barracks were occupied by the French. The purpose to which the U. S. Army put the camp was to re-outfit and re-classify replacements arriving from the states. At a later period hospital evacuates and all classes of casuals, from every area in France, came to the camp for outfitting and classification. Y. M. C. A. activities in this camp began about the middle of August, 1918, and during the first few months were carried on in one of the older Army Barracks, the chief business being in those days to exchange the good old American dollar and the English pound and shilling into more convenient francs.

During November it rained continuously and mud was plentiful. The number of men in camp so far exceeded the billeting capacity of the Barracks that it became necessary for thousands of men to sleep in pup tents which rested upon and on what later became known as the best equipped athletic park in the entire area. To add to the comfort of the men the "Y" kept its door open day and night, affording the boys who were on their way to the front the privilege of sleeping under a roof.

Meantime it was decided to erect a regular "Y" hut, which was formally dedicated on Thanksgiving Day. In an address on that occasion by Colonel McAbee, then in command of the camp, he stated that during the first fifteen days of November, 60,000 soldiers went through

the mill of this camp. Possibly through no other center in this area have representatives of so many different outfits passed. The camp became known as "The Mad House," by the boys and it was the mission of the Y. M. C. A. to pierce the gloom that this conception of life naturally caused the doughboy who spent several weeks and, in some instances, several months within the walls of these somber stone buildings. It became necessary very often for the men to eat their mess in the rain while standing ankle deep in thick black mud. Many a boy—yes, a good many of them—were heard to say that had it not been for the Y. M. C. A. at the Classification Camp they would surely have gone mad.

#### WELFARE WORK

**E**SPECIAL attention was paid to Welfare service both night and day. An illustration of the efficiency of this work and how it was received by the men is found in the following: Ten thousand cones of the most delicious ice cream cones ever made were distributed to ten thousand doughboys during the S. O. S. athletic meet at the Classification Camp, May 3-4, by the "Y." Along with the cream was handed out to each man a generous sandwich of ham, or egg, or cheese filling, according to taste, a steaming-hot cup of the best American coffee and a newspaper fresh from the Paris press. The line in front of the "Y" hut was formed fully an hour before the young women of the canteen staff began to serve and for hours there were lines waiting eagerly though patiently. The cream was brought from Paris in two big convoy trucks, the drivers traveling all night, so that the material might arrive in time.

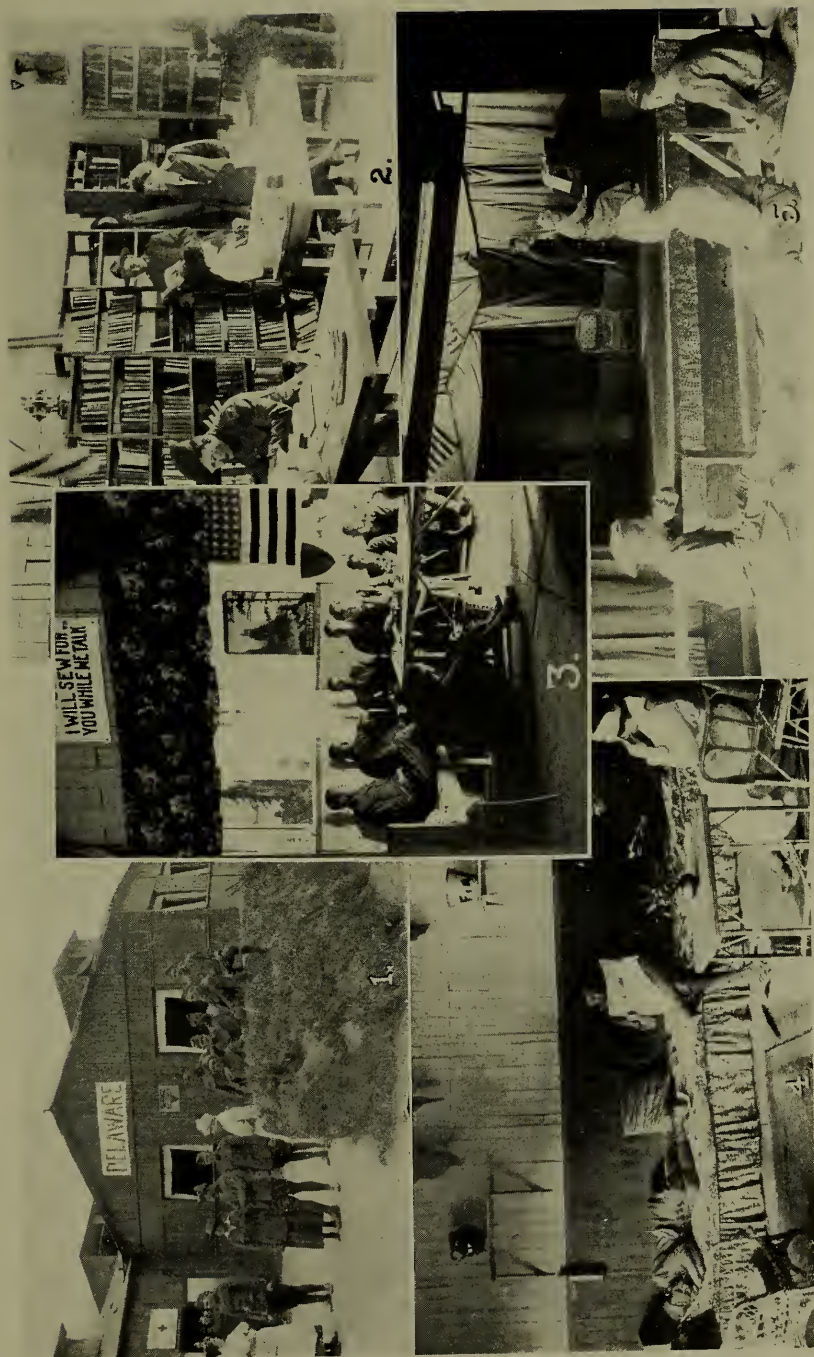
#### ATHLETICS

**T**HE FACT that there was a large field in connection with the camp buildings made it possible for the Y. M. C. A. to lay out and equip at the suggestion of the Army, one of the finest athletic fields in this section of France. The best engineers and athletic directors in the "Y" organization were put to work and within an incredibly short time cinder paths were laid out, a quarter-mile track built and grandstands with a capacity of many thousands erected. All this had to be accomplished during a period of almost constant rain and when the ground was thick with black oozy mud, ankle deep.

#### Y. M. C. A. HUT MOTHER

**P**ROBABLY the first American woman in France who decided to make Welfare Service in the Y. M. C. A. her work for the re-





1. DELAWARE HUT AT CLASSIFICATION CAMP. 2. LIBRARY. 3. MOTHER'S CORNER. 4. REST ROOM. 5. THEATRE.



mainder of her life is Mrs. John R. Sterling of La Grange, Ga., who was mother to the boys who came to the Classification Camp. Mrs. Sterling had a very attractive room in the big "Y" hut and as the men flocked in she conversed with them about almost every subject under the sun, from farming to philosophy and from mechanics to political economy. An endless stream of questions were asked her by soldier boys representing every shade of opinion and belief in the world. Conversation went on as the Mother sewed on chevrons, service stripes and insignias, and mended rents and tears.

The big hut assembly hall was crowded with men all day long and late into the evening. They sat at long tables writing letters home and around the tables in the big cool library where over one thousand books and stacks of magazines were at hand. The men flocked in and called for the physical director who had an unfailing supply of baseballs, bats, and other athletic goods, to say nothing of the whole-hearted understanding of the feelings of the men and a fine ability to help them in an all around way and kept him busy.

"Gee, but this looks good to me," ejaculated a doughboy whose skin matched the color of his uniform. "Don't know what the fellows would do without the "Y" around here." "Say, Buck, where is Jimmy this afternoon?" asks another man. "Jimmy? Oh he is probably hanging around the 'Y' hut, if he isn't in the office jawing with Dad; you may find him talking with the girl in the library, or maybe borrowing a baseball from the athletic director. I don't know but he is having 'Mother' sew on a button." And, of course, that is what the 'Y' workers were there for.

Here is an account of an actual occurrence: A red-faced doughboy walked into Mother Sterling's room one day and coolly said: "Say, Mother, I'd like for you to lend me fifteen francs. When a fellow's in the Army he's just obliged to gamble. I don't suppose you believe that, but it is so any how. I haven't a cent—I've come to borrow some to begin with." This is where the "Mother" failed him, and she told him why she couldn't lend him money to gamble.

Life never became stale at the Classification Camp "Y" Hut. Comedy also played its part daily, when a true sense of humor saved many a situation that otherwise might have become embarrassing or perhaps unhappy. Although the Y. M. C. A. put over a great big work with this camp, which was appreciated not only by the soldier, but by the Army. One evening by actual count—the doors were closed and 3567 men checked out of that big hut.

## CAMP ETAT PERSONNEL

P. H. LIKES.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
C. W. McGREW.....	<i>Assistant Camp Secretary</i>
W. LLOYD.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
MISS ALICE COMSTOCK.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS ELEANOR MERRITT.....	<i>Canteen</i>



CAMP ETAT, three kilos from Le Mans, was located the yards of Le Mans Division of American railway men. The personnel of the camp comprised 1624 men and 78 officers. The location of the Division, exactly between the Zone of Advance and the S. O. S., meant that practically all the American troops sent to Le Mans for billeting for short periods, preparatory to receiving final orders transferring them to the United States, were hauled by the cars of the Le Mans Division. From August 1, 1918, to June 1, 1919, approximately 1,300,000 soldiers and 127,000 American cars were handled on this Division.

The men were called upon to work excessively long hours at times, especially those engaged in train and engine service, and they were also subjected to much inclement weather and many trying predicaments. Thus the Y. M. C. A. had a splendid opportunity to put over some real practical service for the men and they measured up to it in every way.

The first "Y" hut in this camp was opened shortly after the establishment of the camp. At the time, there being only a limited number of railroad men in the Camp an improvised barracks was considered adequate for all needs. But as the camp grew, the demand for a larger hut was keenly felt and a more elaborate structure was erected. This new hut was built under the direction of Mr. Wright, an Indiana engineer, with the assistance of camp carpenters, and it was formally dedicated on November 30, 1918, with impressive ceremony. This hut was named "Texas" in honor of Major Maxwell, Division Superintendent of the Le Mans Division, Texas being his home state.

This hut was of the "A" type, the main part being 143 feet by 30 feet in dimensions, with a wing on the west side 40 by 30 feet. It consisted of a large auditorium, stage, writing room, library, kitchen, store room, and quarters for the Y. M. C. A. personnel. The hut was lighted by electricity throughout and the kitchen was equipped with a large range and all modern conveniences. The interior of the hut was beautifully decorated in blue and gray, with attractive cretonne curtains. The homelike atmosphere was very noticeable.

Especial mention should be made of the canteen service which was classed with the best in the area. Entertainment in the way of moving pictures, concerts and shows by varied and various talent was furnished in abundance, also religious services by Chaplain Major twice each Sunday.

That the men and officers alike were grateful to the Y. M. C. A. for its efforts to help them as they labored to get our soldiers to the front, and then to get them started on their journey back home, is indicated by abstracts from a letter of commendation written by the Camp Commander, Major Chester Maxwell, which reads as follows:

"On account of this being a railroad operating unit, Mr. Likes has come in contact with soldiers from all over the A. E. F. Railroad men as a rule are considered difficult to handle, but he has a personality peculiarly adapted to dealing with this class of men, which might be favorably compared to transient labor, and I do not hesitate to say that he is the most popular Y. M. C. A. secretary in the Sixteenth Grand Division of the Transportation Corps. We feel particularly fortunate in having a man of Mr. Likes' calibre in charge of our welfare activities and our successful accomplishment in moving the large number of troops handled by this Division, is in no small way attributed to the fact that our operating personnel is generously cared for in the way of entertainment and recreation when not on duty."



## PARIGNE L'EVEQUE PERSONNEL

HAROLD ROBERTS.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
MRS. KATHERINE GRINNELL.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS HAZEL OHMERT.....	<i>Canteen</i>



M. C. A. activities at Parigne L'Eveque must not pass unnoticed in the summary of service in the A. E. C., and in relating the survey of service at that point, it is necessary to first mention that Parigne L'Eveque is the only single town in the A. E. C. which was not incorporated into some Division. Nor was this quaint town the scene of many passing home-going Divisions. Its first occupancy by American troops was several days after the signing of the armistice, when what was known as the Third Provisional Transport Regiment, composed of 86th Division Blackhawk men, moved into the old Belgian Training Camp, just outside Parigne L'Eveque.

The Y. M. C. A. at Le Mans was acquainted of the arrival of the Americans at this point, and hurriedly assigned a secretary, with a huge amount of canteen supplies to the camp. A group of soldiers had already fitted out a hut and when the secretary arrived he found staring him in the eyes from the sloping foundation of a "Hut" the huge letters in white cobbles, Y. M. C. A.

It was not more than a month when the Blackhawks left the camp, and Parigne L'Eveque became the Military Police Training School for the A. E. C. With this more or less permanent personnel of camp men Y. M. C. A. life took on the color of club life and in the direct words of a soldier detailed to the Y. M. C. A. in the camp, "The boys all mentioned the "Y" as their club. All functions of entertainment—athletic, religious and actual directorship were operated by committees of soldiers with the "Y" secretary as their chairman. There were regular scheduled programs weekly, including shows, movies, a religious night, educational work, and on Saturday nights there was always a big dance up town at the Officers' Hotel, where the enlisted men were invited and scores of "Y" girls came down from Le Mans to add joy to the weekly function.

A unique treat which the soldiers of Parigne L'Eveque enjoyed each morning and evening, that possibly no other Y. M. C. A. could afford, was hot cakes and coffee or doughnuts and coffee. It appeared as if the old Belgian Barracks which housed the "Y" had been especially built for this purpose, for just to the rear of the stage and in an adjoining room, was a huge fireplace, a fine place for a big kitchen range. It was from this kitchen that the proverbial hot-cake was eagerly sought each morning after reveille.

## SALVAGE CAMP PERSONNEL

O. J. HICKS.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
MARY LOUISE HOLMES.....	<i>Canteen</i>
KATHERINE HOLMES.....	<i>Canteen</i>



BETWEEN a huge pile of discarded Army shoes on one side and a small mountain of old khaki uniforms on the other, the big Y. M. C. A. tent at Salvage Camp of the A. E. C. was a veritable oasis in a desert for the hundreds of doughboys employed in the monotonious work of salvaging soldiers' wearing apparel.

The Hut-tent was set up when the Salvage Camp was opened late in March, 1919, and it was at once popular with the men. The environment of the camp, except for this one center of activities, was more sombre and commonplace than usual, because of the character of the work to be done. Camp headquarters for the Army was but a short distance away and the command kept liaison with the Y. M. C. A. in looking after the welfare of the men.

The tent was equipped with reading and writing rooms, canteen quarters, and a small library, which added to the pleasure of the men and afforded opportunity for a quiet hour in reading and study.

Plenty of entertainment was also provided by the "Y"—a feature of which was frequent soldier shows. These shows and movie pictures helped to fill up the otherwise dull evening and give inspiration and pleasure to men who had no other amusement. The canteen which was in charge of the two Holmes sisters was a conspicuous success, and was so popular that lines of men were almost always in the vicinity.

The canteen workers decorated the hut very attractively, and they were awarded a prize in the area contest. Nowhere in the region was the "Y" work more appreciated by the soldiers, than at this hut.







1, 3, 4 and 5 Showing Adaptability and Attractiveness of the "Y" Tent at the Salvage Camp. 2, 6 and 7. Hut No. 1 at Spur Camp

## SPUR CAMP PERSONNEL

GEORGE W. FARR.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
THOMAS B. DILTS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
ROBERT M. HOOD.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
W. R. PEMBERTON.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
MARION HAYES.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MARY E. GLEASON.....	<i>Canteen</i>
ROBERT W. McCREERY.....	<i>Hut No. 2 Secretary</i>
JESSE B. WATSON.....	<i>Hut No. 3 Secretary</i>
ELIZABETH MYERS.....	<i>Canteen</i>
THOMAS WATKINS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. C. RICHEY.....	<i>Secretary</i>



COVERING 125 acres of ground which in the early days of July, 1918, was a thick forest, the Spur Camp—temporary home of 7,500 American soldiers, was among the most interesting camps in the area. The site of the camp was selected by the Army because of its proximity to the railroad lines, and the possibility of expansion, as needs made it necessary. It was really the hub of the great wheel of the Embarkation Center. There were 25 iron and steel warehouses having a combined floor space of 500,000 square feet, 35 barracks, 8 stables with a capacity of 100 horses each, and corrals for several thousand. There were three miles of railway lines, big electric light and gas plants and a bakery that turned out 62,000 loaves a day. Army supplies aggregating many millions of dollars were stored and guarded at this camp. In addition, Spur Camp had the distinction of having the only soldiers' gymnasium in the area.

The Y. M. C. A. had four hut centers at Spur Camp. Coincident with the opening of the Spur, came the "Y" which erected one large comfortable hut as soon as possible after the men arrived for duty.

Huts Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were built in March, when the camp reached its maximum strength. Building sites were selected so that the men of the camp might be the more easily and promptly served. The huts were of the same general type as those found in other large camps in the area and were well adapted to caring for the varied needs of the men.

In addition to the above, the equipment included a large hangar used as a dancing pavilion and amusement center. As the field of activities was extended, two smaller tents were also utilized in the work.

Along the river bank near the camp, and set in picturesque and

beautiful environment, was a large chateau which was rented by the Y. M. C. A. and used as a billet for the girl welfare workers. This spacious "maison" was the rendezvous for social parties, dances, and impromptu teas arranged by the young women for the benefit of the officers and men. These features were heartily enjoyed and were looked forward to with eager anticipation by the men at the camp.

*The Spur Weekly*, a mess paper devoted to camp activities and published under authority and supervision of camp headquarters, in its final issue had the following testimony to the efficiency of the "Y" work:

"The 'Y' and its corps of workers with its diversified program—religious, educational, athletics and various forms of service, has been a very useful agency to the Army in keeping up the morale and cheerfulness of the men at the Spur Camp.

"The 'Y' canteen was an indispensable unit in the camp life of the men. It was usually well supplied with biscuits, cigarettes, candies and other things so necessary to the comfort of the soldier. After April 1 the wet canteen was started and it has been very popular at all times. During the cold, wet days of April "hot dogs" and butter sandwiches were served. Hot chocolate was always to be had at certain hours. Later as the weather grew warmer, delicious lemonade and cold milk chocolate were served. In June ice cream cones were added to the menu and, of course, were eagerly consumed and relished by everyone."



ENTRAINING AT THE FORWARDING CAMP  
Serving Hot Chocolate to 1400 in Fifteen Minutes



## OVERHAUL PARK PERSONNEL

M. R. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Camp Secretary</i>
WILLIAM LATTIMORE.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
JOSEPH BLACKMER.....	<i>Activities Secretary</i>
W. R. LLOYD.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
RACHEL PUGH.....	<i>Canteen Secretary</i>
MARGARET ANN STEWART.....	<i>Canteen Secretary</i>
ALICE TURNER.....	<i>Colored Secretary</i>
MARY E. SUAREZ.....	<i>Colored Secretary</i>



OVERHAUL PARK was where the wheels were made to go around. Acres of rolling stock belonging to the Army were here overhauled and repaired, when it became necessary to haul them in from the roadside. Great, heavy five-ton trucks, speedy touring cars, roomy Cadillacs and Whites, to say nothing of camionettes, and last but not least Ford "tin Lizzies," that vied with big trucks in importance to the service.

It required more than a thousand men to keep these hundreds of motor cars in condition, and the men worked hard and long. They would come in from their labors at night covered with grime and dirt, weary in body and soul. That was the time the Y. M. C. A. had the opportunity to do them a real service, and they did it.

Two well-manned huts to supply the necessary entertainment and comfort, provided a haven of rest. One hut, the largest and best, was manufactured from sections of three separate structures, which was salvaged from the camp, and put together under the personal supervision of the "Y" man in charge of the Park Welfare Service. This hut was so attractive that it secured a prize in the division contest in April, for novel treatment and material.

A full program of activities was put on by the Y. M. C. A., stress being laid upon outdoor activities and entertainments. Three baseball leagues were formed, out of which came one of the strongest teams in the area. How these mechanics could play ball! In addition two successful field meets were held, besides numerous individual and group contests.

In addition to the main hut which proved to be of so much service to the men, there was also a smaller one especially for the negroes, of whom there were several hundred at the camp. This hut was a large roomy and comfortable place, and was in charge of two colored women of education who made a conspicuous success in managing the hut and caring for the hundreds who patronized the place. Entertainments, athletics and religious services, with an occasional lecture comprised a comprehensive and well rounded program.

## THE YORK HARBOR HUT PERSONNEL

MRS. G. M. WARDEN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
MISS R. ULLIAN.....	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
MISS E. FLANSBURG.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
MISS E. CAHOON.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS LOUISE CLARK.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS G. R. DEFINE.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS E. PRYOR.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS P. ROPES.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS E. M. WILLIS.....	<i>Canteen</i>
A. C. JONES.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
C. R. WAGGONER.....	<i>Night Man</i>
MRS. GERTRUDE GILMOUR.....	<i>Shopping Bureau</i>



THE Y. D., or "York Harbor" Hut was situated on Place Des Jacobins, at mention of which immediately comes into one's mind a picture of the wonderful St. Julien Cathedral, with its splendid flying buttresses and Gothic towers, which dominates the Place. It seems a little incongruous that within 500 yards of this old cathedral, American doughboys should gather in what General Pershing pronounced to be one of the most attractive Y. M. C. A. huts in all France.

This hut was made possible because of a fund solicited by Miss Grace Thompson of New York City from the people of York Harbor, Maine. To a crack company of engineers, of the 26th (Yankee) Division, was assigned the task of constructing the building, which was accomplished in what was then the record time of thirty-three working hours. The hut is designed to accommodate 2,500 people and contains a large lecture and amusement hall, rest and wash room with cot accommodations to sleep fifty men in an emergency, a large and splendidly equipped canteen, a recreation and "quiet" room in charge of the religious secretary, where books and current magazines are on



file; a shopping bureau for the benefit of the American soldier, which is unique in itself, and last of all, a guest room where personal friends of the boys may be entertained.

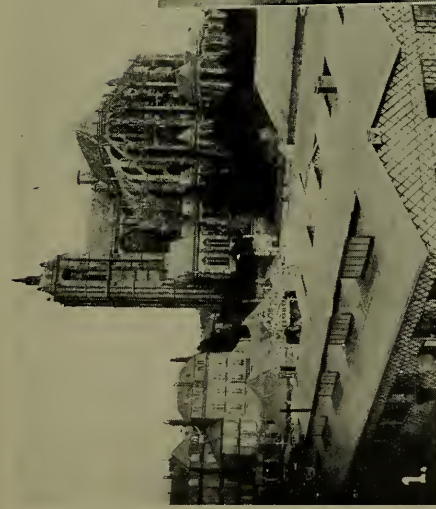
A broad, open fireplace of natural brick at one end of the amusement hall, on either side of which stand high-backed wooden benches, gives to this room a most inviting air. Above the fireplace, in letters of quaint design, appears the following inscription: "Y. D. Memorial Hut Dedicated Through the Y. M. C. A. by the People of York Harbor, to the 26th Division and by that Division to the American Soldiers in France."

The "Y. D." Hut has made many records, and why should it not? It is manned entirely by women, who have done so much to make Y. M. C. A. service to the A. E. F. the wonderful success it has been. It is to this fact that "Y. D." owes the atmosphere of home, which seems to greet one the moment they cross the threshold. The interior side walls are hung with artistic decorations executed by one of the most famous artists in Le Mans, and include a series of panels in colors, on which are the insignia of all the units of the Yankee Division.

The entire structure, wings and all, is covered with a green lattice over a white background, which in turn supports roses and ivy vines. Boxes of flowers and trailing vines greet you at every window and doorway, and it is really a treat to walk up the narrow, crooked streets which so suddenly open out upon the towering cathedral, with this flower-bedecked hut nestling at its feet.

And the rest rooms! There is scarcely a doughboy who has come into Le Mans, his plans all awry, possibly disappointed in that early sailing date for home, which they all crave—dusty, weary, not knowing where to turn, who has not found the "Y. D." Hut rest room exactly the place he was looking for. The counter is always covered with interesting magazines; the chairs are big, easy and restful; there are attractive pictures on the wall, and somehow or other they take you out of France and across the "pond" home; the only thing that you are asked to do in the rest room is to keep quiet, and once in the rest room you don't want to talk. It is enough to sit down, rest, and take it all in until you feel all made over again, and ready to go on with the game.





1.



2.



3.



Ormalon  
Bureau

SHOPPING BUREAU

5.



MORIAL HUT DEDICATED  
TO THE Y.M.C.A. BY THE  
CITY OF NEW YORK TO THE  
SON AND BY THE DIVISION  
OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN FRANCE

6.

Y. D., YORK HARBOR HUT, IN PLACE DES JACOBINS, LE MANS  
1. Hut and Cathedral. 2. Mother's Corner. 3. Dead Tired. 4. Shopping Bureau. 5. Information Bureau. 6. The Home Hearth

## CENTRAL HUT PERSONNEL

DR. J. L. TAIT.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
MRS. J. L. TAIT.....	<i>Hostess</i>
MISS RUTH L. BROOKS.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS FLORENCE M. JOHNSON.....	<i>Shopping Bureau</i>
MISS ANNA PARRY.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS FRANCES PERKINS.....	<i>Sightseeing</i>
MISS MARGARET POTTS.....	<i>Canteen</i>
MISS FERNANDE ROBERTSON.....	<i>Librarian</i>
MISS JEANNETTE SPENCER.....	<i>Canteen</i>



LE MANS is the center of the great Sarthe Region of France and the Central Hut was the center of Le Mans, as its name implies. Into this central town and therefore, also, into this Central Hut poured the men of the Embarkation Center.

The hut occupied an old building which was at one time one of the many imposing chateaux of this section of France. All about the hut within easy reach of walking parties were the places notable not only in the history of the city, but also which played a part in the history of the country at large. The majestic cathedral only three blocks away, keeping ecclesiastical watch over the town, looked down in a paternal fashion at the groups of men from the land of the Great West gathered in the square and in and about the hut where they were made so welcome, while the other points of interest, such as the Queen's House and the Musee, a block away, completed the setting for this most important and interesting military center.

For Mr. Wiest, Regional Director at the time of the opening of this hut, the problem was like that of the Great Roman, who wrote in his commentaries "For Caesar all things were to be done at once." The hut was at first headquarters for the whole of the area activities, but the rapid development of this section as a military base soon made an overflow condition that removed the headquarters to Rue Chanzy and gave over the whole building to purely hut activities, which were conducted by the limited staff under all the difficulties incident to such rapid development. No fully adequate facilities for the housing of the throngs of men could be furnished either by the military or the Welfare bodies and referring to this, one of the early staff, has written thus, "They were sleeping on chairs, tables, stairways, floors, in draughts and quite often without blankets or overcoats. I have been profoundly thanked many times by the boys for permitting them to stay all night. They would often say that if it had not been for this place they would have had to sleep out in the weather."



When Mr. Bookwalter became Regional Director it was decided to extend the functions of the Central Hut and Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Tait, at that time Field Secretaries for social centers in England, were called to this area and were given charge of this work. The large building was renovated and quickly assumed the appearance of a pleasant and attractive home in which the men felt they were truly welcome. The enlarged staff spared neither time nor pains to make this impression a glad reality to the lads, their guests, who quickly found themselves adopted into the home, and poured their troubles into the willing ears of "Mother."

The hut activities were many and varied, branching into lines of work little realized by the on-looker. "Say, where can I get some money for this?" The speaker held an Army check in his hand. "Here you are, Buddie," from a man at the desk in the Financial Department, and in a minute he was arranging with the big brother for the transfer of a part of the cashed check to the folks at home. Thousands of dollars were sent thus by the financial man and the records show that it went to all parts of the Union and hundreds of boys have testified their warmest commendation for this service of the Y. M. C. A. rendered without the charge of one centime to the man.

Perhaps it was Monday or Wednesday or Friday, and if so the reconnaissance cars were arriving and stood in a long line in front of the hut. At a signal the men were "loaded" on the cars and they were off to the country for one of the sightseeing excursions organized to meet the demands of the boys who had become interested in the points of historical interest in which the Department of Sarthe abounds. Lunch was on one of the larger cars with a man in charge whose business it was to see that this part of the program was properly carried out, so that body, spirit and mind were all fed and the day closed with a sense of pleasure and profit—that "something accomplished, something done" had "earned a night's repose."

All about the information desk, inside of which the dainty little "lady-secretary" from "back home" sat there was a constant buzz of questions, "Where is the Cathedral?" "When can I get a train to Tours?" The time cards came out and the boy goes away happy. "Where can I get something to send home to Mother?" Out went the Shopping Secretary and soon the packet, bought with discretion and at the most reasonable price, was on its way to the States. "Say, can a feller get his chevron sewed on?" Needle and thread were soon at work and a happier and smarter soldier said his thanks to the smiling hostess or assistant.

Upstairs the writing rooms, quiet, comfortable, with plenty of material for the most voluminous letters, and an atmosphere well-fitted to "composition," helped the most backward of the men to send back the messages so much longed for, and the reading room with good light and plenty of papers and magazines, lifted many a fellow above the plane of his worries. During the long winter months, long after the roar of battle had died away—months of patient waiting—it was a popular place for our soldier boys. It then was the only library of the A. L. A. in Le Mans and proved too small to accommodate the large number of boys who found enjoyment in good reading, so plans for an enlarged library in the Jacobins Gardens were made. When this building was opened, the little library at Central Hut was used as an annex, but although relegated to a position of secondary importance, it never lost its attractiveness and still was visited by many boys who found enjoyment in the large assortment of the best work in history, fiction and verse.

And there were other rooms. In came a dozen fellows from a long trip on the train, bending under their heavy packs, and grimy from travel. Their baggage was quickly removed and put into the commodious check room, and the washroom furnished soap, hot water, and clean towels which took care of the rest, the men emerging clean and ready for the coffee and rolls that completed their comfort.

"The home is the thing" as one of the boys put it, and that is the sort of atmosphere that was sought. The men were all "boys" to the chief secretary and all his co-workers and the office was almost constantly in use as a consultation place where boys were helped in their personal problems, aided in official requests, in the getting of passports and a hundred and one other things which were constantly arising.

But the story of Central Hut cannot be closed without mention of the Night Canteen and Midnight Frolics which made the hut known wherever there were A. E. F. men in France. The afternoon always brought a program from the Entertainment Department, and in the early evening a lecture, "sing" or a dance, followed by movies. But the late canteen, running from 11 until 3 the next morning, made the Central Hut a Mecca for men on leave, waiting for trains, doing night shifts in their work, or merely passing through the area. And all the while the long coffee line moved toward the canteen, where the fragrant fluid and good, fresh sandwiches were dispensed with a free hand, the Midnight Frolics were providing the best entertainment in the area in the assembly room. One didn't know what was meant by "a sound of



revelry by night" unless he attended the Frolics--and the best part of it all was the informality. The best talent in the area, as they dropped in from their stunt somewhere in the field, did their bit to entertain the waiting crowd and found an appreciation that brought forth their best efforts. It was all laughter and fun-jazz music and joy, bubbling spontaneously forth and creating an atmosphere of riotous good cheer which dispelled the gloom from the sourest-faced, most down-hearted doughboy who came within its reach. Many a man held his renewed spirit to "stick it out and win all along the line" to the cheer of the Midnight Frolics.



## CENTRAL HUT

1. Court Showing Movie Screen. 2. Information Counter. 3. Wet Canteen. 4. Games Room. 5. Street Entrance. 6. Mother's Room. 7. Porch and Garden

## THE KANSAS HUT PERSONNEL

W. W. WEBER.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
C. F. PARKER.....	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
W. R. STONE.....	<i>Activities Secretary</i>
J. CORNELISON.....	<i>Activities Secretary</i>
HAROLD J. BROTHERS.....	<i>Rations Secretary</i>



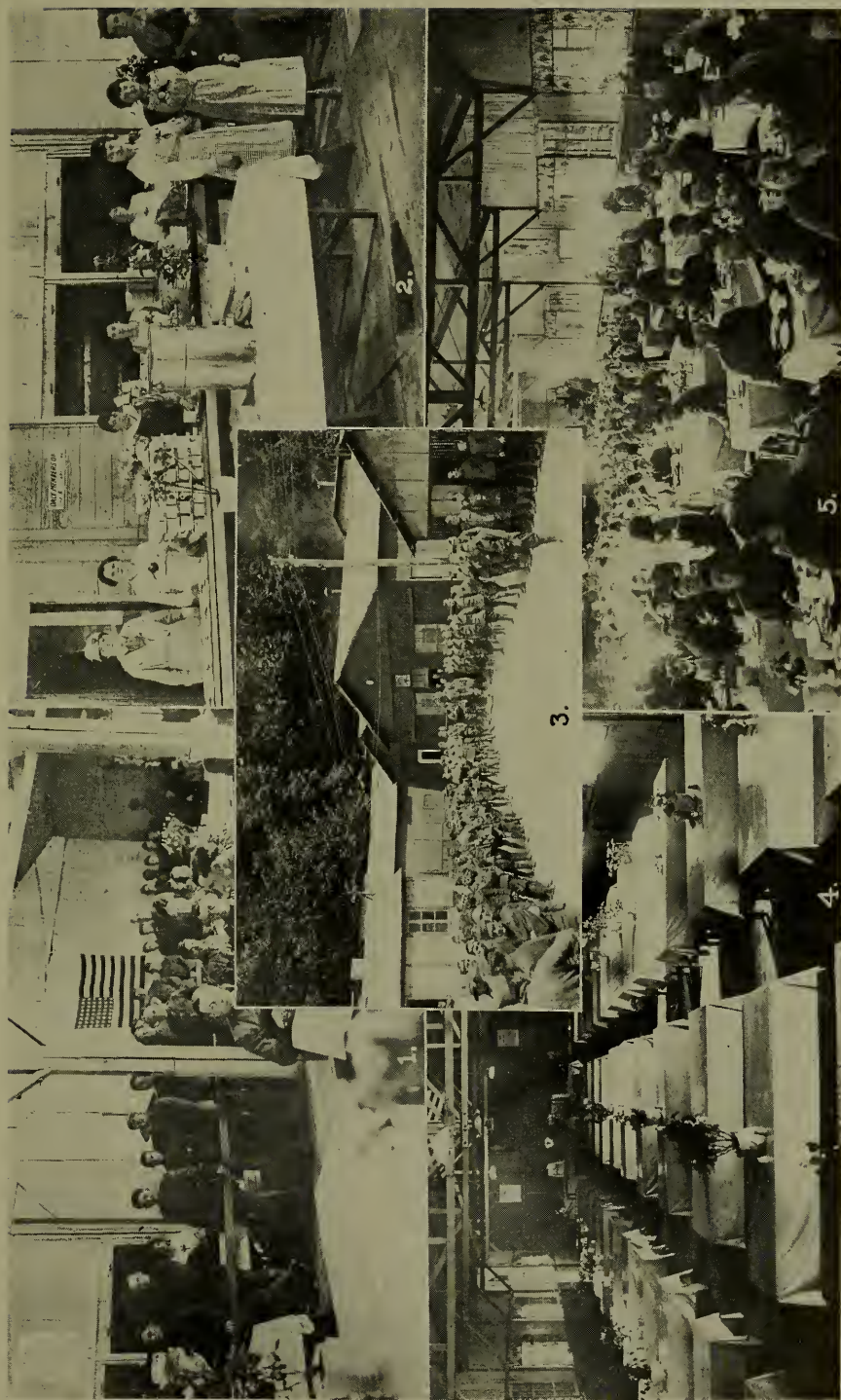
NE OF the largest and finest of the many cafeterias opened and financed by the Y. M. C. A. for the American soldier in France opened for business in March and at once filled a long-felt want. This cafeteria was located in one of the most historic spots of the city of Le Mans, in the famous Jacobins Gardens, which were excavated for use as a gladatorial arena by the Romans before the time of Christ.

The structure was originally designed as a "Y" activities hall; however, the need of a large cafeteria in this centrally located section of the city was apparent before the original plans were carried out, and they were changed and adapted to its present use. The building was the combination of two A type huts, and had ample accommodations to seat at table 250 men at one time. Thousands were served very expeditiously. The kitchen equipment was of the latest, with large ranges, modern dish-washing apparatus, sinks and adequate sanitary garbage disposition.

The food was cooked and served in plain sight of all, and its whiteness and cleanliness reminded all Americans of the famous Childs' type at home. One large section of the building was given over to a modern American ice cream plant, with daily capacity of 1000 gallons of the whity coolness that furnished to thousands of doughboys their first taste of real ice cream since they left American shores.

So much for the matter-of-fact description of one of the finest bits of "Y" service to the A. E. F. in France. But let us wander into this huge building and see for ourselves what it is that so appeals to the doughboy and brings him back—and back—and back. We enter the grounds—large, wide spaces, lovely, shady trees—a sense of coolness and cleanliness very soothing to the tired, dusty doughboy who has just covered weary kilos with his pack weighing heavily on his back. Just a fitting setting for the cafeteria itself. We cross the threshold and see a huge room, high ceiling, cool and clean, a sense of good cheer which then analyzed, is easily traceable to the masses of light yellow and blue used in decorating the interior. And those tables! Row on





LE MANS CAFETERIA, CALLED KANSAS HUT, LOCATED IN JACOBINS GARDENS

1. Interior Line. 2. Serving Table. 3. Waiting Line. 4. Oil Clothed Tables. 5. Flowers and Music With All Meals

row, white and clean—a flowering plant in the center of each one—while the delectable odor of coffee—American coffee! and pies baking to the home-loved crispness and brownness—creeps into the senses. Without a thought the pack drops from the doughboy's back—a sigh of contentment comes from his very innermost being—and the tired lines smooth out to an appreciative grin as he flies past the counter and takes his seat—only one of several hundred like him—his tray laden with good, wholesome, home-like food which just touches the spot!

Hunger satisfied he begins to take stock of what is going on around him; it's funny—but he just begins to realize that that orchestra on the platform is playing some pretty good music; what was that last piece they played? He leans over and asks his "Buddie."—Oh, yes! That was the piece his sister used to play back home. Gee! These French know some pretty good stuff, don't they? And so on—And back of all this a work done willingly, tirelessly, and well!

A "Y" secretary acts as special buyer for the raw materials which taste so good when they have been prepared by the "Y" chefs; his Ford Camionette rambles many miles each day, the "Y" man laden with many, many francs—to return each night, the Ford groaning under the load, the "Y" man "sans francs." And the next day it is all to be done over again.

The "Y" girls at the counter give the finishing home touch with their smile of good cheer to the lads filing by. The menu and prices charged for meals were those established by the general supply committee of the Y. M. C. A., and were those prevailing in all "Y" hotels and restaurants of the A. E. F.—namely, breakfast, one franc fifty centimes; noon luncheon, two francs fifty centimes; dinner, three francs. The average number of meals served daily was 2000 and while open to both officers and enlisted men, there was no embarrassment in serving both alike at its attractive tables, without question the service rendered by this splendidly organized and working cafeteria, was one of the most appreciated activities in this region, from the standpoint of the Army Headquarters.



## LIBRARY PERSONNEL

MISS AGNES LATIMER BACON.....*Chief Secretary*MISS ESTHER JOHNSTON.....*Assistant Secretary*

NOVEMBER 8, 1918, saw the opening of the first little library in a corner room of Army Headquarters Building in Bourse de Commerce, Le Mans. It was a general meeting place and bureau of information, open to officers and enlisted men alike, one of the few warm places in Le Mans, where one was free to read, smoke and visit with friends.

In a muddy courtyard a file of men waited to come into the reading and writing rooms. Many were from remote parts of the area, and by way of celebrating their leave from camp, spent the night sleeping on the stone floor here. They came into the small, crowded, smoky reading room, as many as could crowd in, to security and warmth and forgetfulness of their monotonous life.

"Books! Haven't seen 'em since we hit the trenches! Didn't have time to think of 'em there, but its awful to be without them now the fighting's over." The eagerness and complete absorption with which they lost themselves in novels, in magazines, in technical books—in all subjects but those of war—is one of the compensations for the monotonous grind of the librarian encamped in France. From the library, magazines were distributed by mail to the various places in the area—comparatively easy until in December the points of distribution suddenly jumped in two days from 30 to nearly 100. This necessitated moving the base of general distribution, and in the late afternoon of January 3, the Army order came that the library must be moved the following day as the space it occupied must be used for military purposes.

It seemed almost impossible to find a place suitable, but the library could not be given up. Some canteen women offered the use of their little private room on the second floor of the Central "Y" Hut, and the library moved in. It was a tiny back room, with old-fashioned furniture, a quaint old mirror, a cosy open fireplace and three of the most comfortable chairs in France, and it very soon became a clearing house for half the men in khaki—whether they wanted to see the head of the Architectural School or the Army Post School or the officer who could best direct them for entrance to the numerous French and English universities. For the library was the incentive and beginning of the Army Post School, and played a most important part in the edu-



cational interest of the A. E. F. It was here that an architect from San Francisco met an architect from Minneapolis and succeeded in interesting several members of the Chicago Art Institute and the New York Art League in forming a class out of which developed the Architectural School

Discussion with men as they were taking out books often led to the discovery that they were fully qualified as teachers for groups which the librarian had gathered together—men to whom the war had meant leaving college, or other schools and who were eager to catch up their dramatic ability as best they might. Several men were also found with real dramatic ability, and care was taken that they were referred to the Y. M. C. A. Entertainment Department, where they found the proper outlet for their talent and relief from the deadly monotony.

The stories that this tiny room could tell! For the daily round of a librarian includes all activities from trying to supply the latest imagist poetry to mending kit-bags. She sees from morning to night a constant stream of wet, tired, home-sick, bored, disconsolate men—men suffering from a sudden let-down in tension and from lack of occupation for their minds. Tonight is a good night for reading, the light, cold rain outside increasing the feeling of comfort and security roused by the burning logs. The room has a blue haze of smoke from pipe and cigarettes, and there is the glow from the fire and the sheen of holly in the bowl on the mantel. To the left of the desk is seated a burly man, rather old for the draft army, and he had been of late rather low in his mind until he was asked to give a course on Building to the men in the camp school—and what a change! Arranging his lectures, working out calculations from a treatise on masonry construction—his heavy face almost animated as he exclaims, "Even the fellows who don't think of going into the contracting business are fixing to get married when they go home and want to know something about houses. So they come to my school."

A man has just come in for light fiction to take his thoughts from gloomy things. He is a musician and the chief duty of his band now is playing for five or six funerals every morning. "It gets on a fellow's nerves," he says, "knowing the way those chaps got through the Argonne and were taken by the 'flu' on their way home." And as he takes the most diverting novel the librarian can find, another dismal visitor arrives. He is the official photographer of the funerals, and wants the "Y" girl to choose which of the photographs should go to the mothers.

In spite of the urgent need for greater space, it was not until April that the library was moved to a separate building in the Jacobins Gardens. The building erected upon the site indicated by the Army, was given by the Red Cross; the Y. M. C. A. furnished the chairs and the tables, and the greater share of the interior decorations, while the American Library Association furnished a large and adequate supply of books. While the library was from this time under the supervision of the A. L. A., the Y. M. C. A. continued to supply the personnel and to take a kindly interest in the work which had grown to such proportions under their tutelage.

The development of this work to the point of transfer to the American Library Association is only one more instance of the spirit of the Y. M. C. A. organization. Its personnel, overseas for service, realized a demand and its vital importance—and met it, growing as it grew and carrying the work along until other organizations more slow to get into the field could take it over. Service of this kind finds its greatest appreciation in the hearts of those served and needs no further commendation.

#### DOUGHNUTS FOR THE A. OF O.

Personnel, Fifteen Girls in Charge of Miss Honore McNamara

"Well, if here isn't Sis!"

"Who said the Y. M. C. A. had gone home!"

"Hello, Sis."

"Here's a girl we *can* fraternize with!"

"Hello, Miss Y. M. C. A.; verstehen sie English? \* \* \* You bet I can understand doughnuts!" and he reached for the big string of doughnuts that a Y. M. C. A. girl was holding up outside the car door.



IT WAS JULY, in the year 1919, that memorable year when the A. E. F. returned to the U. S. A. so P. D. Q. The stories of the whimsical shuffles of Fate or G. H. Q. (which is all the same to khaki) in getting the Yanks home will make conversation around firesides for years to come; but the loudest and longest story will be of those buddies up on the Rhine at whom R. Me Rumor shook a persistent finger and hissed villainously, "You'll be left here for five years to grease the Watch on the Rhine." For blue moons, Rumor got by with his wretched jest; all the high-numbered divisions went home, first by ones, then in twos, then by threes and fours, and finally by pieces of eight, but the Regulars stayed "Settin' Jake" on the bridgeheads of the Rhine. All the A. E. F. had moved out of France, with the exception of a few bare

traces. Little was left in life that was worth the living.

Then shuffle No. 1001, and the order came for the Regulars to go home. Stakes were pulled up without any music, and the long line of 49-Hommes-per began to pull out of Germany at the rate of three a day. Again French "permissionnaires" deflected the course of straight-forward Yanks, and the heavy trains of boxcars, bearing their precious American freight, were sent to Brest by devious and circuitous routes. The journey from Coblenz to Brest lasted four or five days, and there were eats but twice a day!

Imagine the surprise of the American soldiers when at Alencon, a day and a half from Brest, during a six-minute stop of the train, there suddenly appeared at the door of the "A. E. F. Pullman" Y. M. C. A. girls and soldier details with heavy baskets of doughnuts or sandwiches or home-made fudge. Anticipating the short duration of the six minutes, the girls had strung the doughnuts together in mammoth loops, one for each car; or they had tied the sandwiches—big, generous ones—and the fudge—huge, slabby squares of it—up in packages which could be handed to the sergeant in charge of each car; then there was the girl with the truckload of today's papers which were handed into the cars in bunches; and if any time was left, the busy girls, who must work the full length of the train in the short time, paused for the volley of questions and banter hurled at them from the revived buddies, to whom the sight of an American girl in her blue canteen apron with its fresh white collars and cuffs, smiling merrily or sympathetically as she handed out her strings of golden doughnuts, was as an oasis in the desert of the long, tedious, uncomfortable journey.

The Y. M. C. A. did not undertake to feed the three trainloads of men a day during their few minutes' stop at Alencon; all it could attempt was to pass out a bite along the road, and to break the monotony of the long journey to the coast with a "Hello, Buddie, we're with you." Even this bit was accomplished under strenuous difficulties, for had not the military authorities said, "Get the welfare workers home," and had not the area been cleared by a wholesale sweeping into Paris of the canteen girls of the Le Mans area? The scheme involved many complications, for it meant the holding out of equipment just when everything was being salvaged and turned in; it meant a securing of enormous supplies just when all arteries were being cut from the base; it meant a call for volunteer soldier detail, just when all the men were most interested in getting home. But the plan was put into effect and carried out with a success beyond expectation. The minimum number of girls were carefully selected who could put out the maximum number of doughnuts, fudge, and sandwiches, with the greatest amount of

cheerfulness over a lake of boiling grease under an August sun, who were willing to tackle a second time the tub of fudge that had failed the right consistency at the first cooking, and who were swift at changing into a fresh apron and who could carry a still happier smile when time came to "work" the troop-train in its tantalizingly short stop. Some qualifications, these! Y. M. C. A. girls must needs have qualifications at any time, but ordinarily they work under the inspiration of the companionship of the men whom they are serving. Every girl will tell you that when the buddies are around any amount of work or managing of irons in the fire becomes easier. But at Alencon all the fun and inspiration of the personal touch existed only in the imagination. The glorious end of the fatiguing routine was the few minutes at the train, when the appreciation and thanks of the soldiers on the troop trains sent the girls back to their hot, grinding task with freshened courage. Because the hours for the arrival of the trains were irregular and uncertain hence causing long waits at the station with the baskets of food, only three girls and one soldier met each train—which meant that each girl in the crew met only one train a day. And the rest of the day was work—long hours of hard, hot work, Sundays, birthdays, and all!

The doughnut-sandwich-fudge factory was in an old French dwelling whose chief asset was a back yard big enough to accommodate the numerous hot water boilers, the dough-table, the various grease blotting-pads all covered with doughnuts ready for the stringing. In the kitchen, the dining room, the reception room, and the hallways were Dixie platters of fudge in their various stages of cooling. On the second was the sandwich factory—dishpans full of mayonnaise dressing; piles of hams that had been boiled in the kettles in the back yard; buckets and buckets of cheese being melted to a spreadable consistency.

At a long table in the corner where none other dared intrude, presided Jack, the bread-cutter, who exhausted vocabularies trying to express his opinion of the instability and jazziness of Army bread that the girls demanded should be "nicely cut." Jack was a brave soldier out of the Second Division, and in days still further remote he was a star skater at the Metropolitan in New York. Now he had cast his fortunes with the crew of merry, willing girls who were staying over and working with lights under a hot bushel "all for the boys;" and Jack, who was a good sport and a bon comrade of the buddies from the Rhine, stayed over with them, hoping to get home only in time to fill his engagement for the first of September. Then there was Lewis out of another Division—the willingest soldier that ever helped a "Y" girl lift a G. I. can of chocolate. Lewis always had the keys to the



situation at his finger tips, and he never missed a trick. He did big jobs and little—the point was, he always did them. Then there was Brindle who did the hauling from the base of supplies, who was mechanic for everything that might break down, whether the five-ton truck that hauled stuffs out of Le Mans or the meat-chopper that ground up the big, juicy hams. As is the usual story of the Y. M. C. A. canteen girl, the girls of this crew could not possibly have gotten along without their soldier detail.

At Alencon was stationed some two hundred of the engineers who pulled the American troop trains through the Sarthe district on their way to the coast. Who wonders that in their idle hours they wandered into the doughnut "foundry," where there was the added attraction of a bevy of American girls! Then it was that the soldier detail came into its own, and it was Jack who usually named the price in tasks for each "hand-out."

The work at Alencon lasted from July 7 to August 10. The personnel of the girls who stayed on the job throughout the time is as interesting as the pursuits from which they came in civil life is varied or as the sections which they represent in the States are diversified. Three domestic science teachers were quite in thier elements at the compounded mixing, whether they were skillful with the primitive cooking equipment or not. An illustrator of a certain well known magazine and an artistic photographer of no small degree of success occasionally gave suggestion that they still had a temperament by a bit of raving over the apricot-colored creaminess of the cheese filling or over the golden-brown of the doughnuts (much to Jack's disgust); a business woman of a breezy western town and a school woman from a southern state occasionally interposed poise to the situation when an actress with a keen sense of humor and Jack were swinging their badinage too high for the good of the work.

But the jokiest joke that ever flew in the banter was the joke which was the truest words of all—what they did was "all for the boys!"





## HUT CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL

W. D. Skinner, *Regional Director*

William Wrights

George W. Garloch

George Emsley

Wm. E. Mix

John F. Worth

George F. Keith



THE HUT construction work in the area of Le Mans began in October with the erection of a Berger B. Hut at Forwarding Camp. Since then 26 structures were completed, of types divided and described as follows: Five Class A Huts, four Class B Huts, ten Class C Huts, seven buildings of special construction.

Technically, standard Y. M. C. A. huts are as follows: Type A, or Class A, 9x43 meters with extension at side; Type B, double building with adjustable partitions in centers and extensions on end and side, size overall 27x50 meters; Type C, 9x30 meters. The cost for constructing such huts have been on an average, respectively, 64,373 francs, 86,560 francs and 33,060 francs.

Number and location of Class "A" Huts—Jacobins Gardens, 1; Forwarding Camp, 2; Camp Etat, 1; Belgian Camp, 1.

Number and location of Class "B" Huts—Classification Camp, 1; Forwarding Camp, 1; Belgian Camp, 1; Place des Jacobins, 1.

Number and location of Class "C" Huts—Bonnetable, 1; Conlie, 1; Chateau de Loire, 1; Spur Camp, 1; Forwarding Camp, 2; Le Mans Warehouse (15 trusses in length), 1; Belgian Camp, 1; Jacobin Gardens, 1; Overhaul Park, 1.

Number and location of special construction—Le Mans Station (15x21 feet), 1; Belgian Camp Theatre, addition (13x90 feet), 1; Forwarding Camp Auditorium (39x17 meters), 1; Jacobins Gardens addition to "A" Type Hut (30x80 feet), 1; Spur Hangar (20x28 meters), 1; Belgian Camp Hangar (20x28 meters), 1; Belgian Camp Athletic Dressing Room (12x50 feet), 1.

In addition to the huts, 129 tents were stretched in the area, of the following types and values:

Eighty-four Abri tents 6x18 meters, costing 10,200 francs each.

Twenty-five Henry tents 6x18 meters, costing 10,200 francs each.

Twenty Oval tents 25x50 meters, costing 5000 francs each.

In the erection of most of the huts of this area "Soldier Details" were secured from the camps where the huts were to be built, but in

some instances details were secured from labor battalions, at Spur Camp, which were used to construct buildings at other points. The labor situation and the transportation problem were, as everywhere else, the most serious to solve. The delays often caused by lack of transportation are a thing always to be regretted.

In the erection of some particular huts the heartiest coöperation was accorded by men of certain units. The two outstanding examples of such coöperation are the Berger B Hut, which was built in Place des Jacobins, Le Mans, by a detail from the 26th Division under the direction of Mr. Mix, in the remarkable time of thirty-three working hours. This is the hut which has been dedicated to the Yankee Division, and is known as the "Y. D. Hut." The real record for hut construction, however, was that made by the men from the 28th or Keystone Division. A hut of Standard Type A was constructed in the Forwarding Camp by the Engineers of this Pennsylvania Division in the world-record time of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  working hours. It was befitting that this hut should be christened the "Keystone Hut."





1. Indiana Hut at Belgian Camp on Dedication Day. 2. Following Ceremony of Dedication, Auditorium Forwarding Camp, from Left to Right, Front Row. A. G. Bookwalter, Regional Director; General Jackson, Commanding Forwarding Camp; General Johnston, Commanding 91st Division; "Gen." Mead, Head of "Y" Girls in France; E. C. Carter, Chief Secretary Y. M. C. A.; W. D. Skinner, Director of Construction, Le Mans Region. 3. Keystone Hut at Forwarding Camp and Soldier Detail of 28th Division that Erected it in Record-Breaking Time of Seventeen and One-half Hours.

## HUT DECORATION

## PERSONNEL

BLANCHE C. GRANT.....	<i>Regional Decorator</i>
FRED G. DAY.....	<i>Assistant Regional Decorator</i>
HERRICK BRADLEY.....	<i>Driver and Assistant</i>
OREN WAGGONER.....	<i>Assistant</i>



N JANUARY, when Le Mans area was bracing itself for the concentration here of thousands of men pouring through on their way to the coast, the Y. M. C. A. huts were springing up like mushrooms over night, Miss Blanche C. Grant of Lincoln, Nebraska, was sent down from Paris as Regional Decorator. She found that in the whirlwind of building, decoration had been in a vague way considered, but was after all more or less a fifth spoke in the wheel. No office, supplies scattered in various places, and no transportation showed a situation which meant that she must build from the ground.

A small, very small room, about four feet square was found in the rear of the courtyard of Headquarters. A broom and some brown paper were brought into play and a "warehouse" was ready to receive the few materials available. Some paint and four sets of curtains proved to be the "wares." The discovery that an Army camion started once in a while from the Place de Republique for the various camps began a solution of the Transportation problem. The house for the women at the Forwarding Camp had just been completed and here the decorator began with yellow and grey.

Soon it was realized that badly as transportation and supplies were needed, personnel for the Department was needed worse; and still more was it necessary to arouse an interest in decoration. At home the "Y" stood for the best that could be afforded. And now that the days of the front line emergencies were passed, cheer and courage were needed by the men who waited; and color was one means of giving them that.

Persistent appeals for transportation won now and then a short ride. One day a man who frankly admitted he had no training in the art of mixing colors, matching of cretonnes or judging of designs, reported as additional personnel. He was not an artist, but he was of much service in the way of buying and begging for transportation. February 17, a driver of a camionette, reported to the department for duty. Soon he was asked, "Just what does the lady do?" The answer was very definite, and from then on transportation was assured.

Since the professional personnel was not forthcoming and since



the color cheer was needed so direly over all the area, something must be done to speed up the work. A hint was dropped and the idea grew. A contest was put on throughout the region. Announcements and speeches aroused curiosity, but the real interest came with the completion of a hut or two in towns where heretofore the men had accepted the dirty hall which had fallen to their lot. The decorator's office soon came to be flooded with calls. The assistant did a thriving business in paint, and the cretonne supply was soon exhausted. Personal trips to Paris brought a load of flags and beautiful cretonne which soon found its way to the huts of the area. The men were really interested in the contest and took a keen pride in their respective huts.

A report from the hut decoration department shows something accomplished every day during its existence; the report for February reads "Ten places started and office supplies given to 24 places." Since then the number of places reached and decorated totals 140. But no mere record could tell the whole story of the advice and encouragement given, the interest and appreciation on the part of the men themselves, and the *esprit de corps* of the several groups of soldier details who handled the paint in the various huts.

A run out into the area brought one to the little dark hall at Yvre le Boliu, where a decorator transformed the place into a veritable theatre by painting the walls with light yellow, browns and purple, to resemble heavy curtains drawn back to display the well known insignia of the 80th Division. A woodland scene added to the small stage. In another direction one found an old-time market place with huge beams and posts made into a "Y" by use of broom and brush laden with blue and yellow. Not far away was a warehouse with gay curtains of yellow and green, and walls clean with soft yellow and brown water color. A tent was interesting for its decoration. The furniture had been painted a bright blue and a group of five allied flags gave snap to the place. At another place a "Y" woman dispensed good chocolate over a counter painted black while the walls were a lovely rose; at the windows against the black woodwork hung curtains of yellow with rose and black design. This "tea room" was the ante-room to the theatre, where blue and white predominated.

Nearer the larger cities were the huge huts. A few miles away from Le Mans was the Forwarding Camp, where two decorators vied with each other. The cafeteria or the "Green Hut" at the Jacobins Gardens showed what big masses of light yellow and blue could do in the way of cheer, while one ate a good meal. The Etat Camp hut was cool in gray and blue with splashes of color borrowed from the flags of many

nations. The Central Hut was an example of what could be done with an old French house, with warm red curtains and yellow as a background for stunning posters. It must be kept in mind that no attempt was made to make homes out of places that could never be such, but rather to try with big poster designs and bright colors to tell the boys that someone had been thinking of them, that someone cared not only back home, but also in France, that someone was calling courage through the color and hoping the "Y" would hold more for them than the bar not far away. That the men appreciated all this cannot be doubted. Talk for a while to the fellow who had come back from the land where the "Y" could not go. Let him tell his story. Watch him as he looks around. All this work had its subtle appeal for good.

The credit for the vision and the designing of the decoration for the huts in the Le Mans area is demonstrated by the following tribute: "You have done one of the finest pieces of "Y" service in France." This credit belongs primarily to Miss Grant, but she, as is so often the story of a "Y" girl, attributes the success of the work to the soldiers of the local huts, who so willingly and so eagerly followed her every suggestion in the brightening up of their Y. M. C. A. Their efforts and faithfulness made possible the hut decoration.

### DECORATION OF HUTS

Number of places decorated in some manner.....	140
Materials Furnished	
Money Expended, Cretonne.....	9,000 francs
Flags, 1200.....	9,000 francs
Posters Furnished.....	250
Paint .....	16,900 francs
Stage Curtains.....	13,300 francs
Special Decorations and Signs.....	1,500 francs
Flower Boxes .....	3,000 francs
Grounds .....	1,000 francs
Hut Decoration—Contest March 15, April 30: Number of	
Huts, Tents, Halls, Rooms in Contest.....	100

### SPECIAL UNDERTAKINGS

American Cemeteries Decoration Day, Athletic S. O. S. Meet, A. E. C. County Fair, A. E. C. Athletic Meet, A. E. F. Competitions, Inter-Allied Competitions, Franco-American Fete.

## HUT EQUIPMENT, SUPPLY AND SALVAGE DEPARTMENTS PERSONNEL

H. O. MADDOX.....	<i>Regional Salvage Secretary</i>
G. H. WATSON.....	<i>Chief Associate Salvage Department</i>
ILA DIXON.....	<i>Secretary Salvage Department</i>
VIRGINIA D. LEACH.....	<i>Stenographer</i>
F. C. AGNEW.....	<i>Warehouse Superintendent</i>
A. C. ALLEN.....	<i>Billing Clerk</i>
S. E. HARVOUT.....	<i>Musical Instruments</i>
JOHN F. WORTH.....	<i>Tents</i>
J. O. FISH.....	<i>Field Secretary</i>
HARRY C. GREEN.....	<i>Field Secretary</i>
GEO. F. HARBIGE.....	<i>Field Secretary</i>
GEO. EMSLEY.....	<i>Chauffeur</i>



WHEN the Y. M. C. A. was organized in Le Mans, there were two departments from which supplies were obtained, one known as the Supply Department, and the other the Hut Equipment. The Supply Department furnished all necessary wet and dry canteen supplies, such as cigars, cigarettes, biscuits, jam, milk, cocoa, chocolate, dental cream, soap, etc. This was one of the busiest departments in the Y. M. C. A. For instance, during March, 531 truck loads of merchandise were sent out of the warehouse to the different Divisions in this area, totaling in value 4,596,769.80 francs.

The Hut Equipment furnished all equipment necessary for a complete Y. M. C. A.; hut, tables, benches, tents, pianos, chairs, phonographs and records, lanterns, lamps, cots, mattresses, blackboards, and all kinds of kitchen utensils. On April 1, 1919, the Y. M. C. A. had equipped and supplied, in the Le Mans area, 241 huts and tents. These Y. M. C. A. activities centers were also constantly changing with the entraining and detraining of troops, so this department had to keep on the job to supply them all and meet the many emergencies.

All kinds of stationery was also furnished by the Hut Equipment Department, as well as pens, ink and pen holders.

The total amount of merchandise as shown by records for the months of December, January, February and March was over 12,000,000 francs, and welfare work for this period to the end of March, 1919, was approximately 7 per cent of the total or about 85,000 francs. The proportion for April was more than double because of the large number of wet canteens operating, and the Y also gave away hot chocolate and biscuits from two to three days a week.

At the end of April, in addition to 71 tents, the Y. M. C. A. had a large number of huts, theatres and rented quarters of various kinds, in the aggregate amounting to over 300. These huts and buildings ranged in size from single rooms to the regular Army hangar, requiring from 800 to 1,000 benches and a car-load of flooring.

On April 1, 1919, the Army took back the dry canteens and the Hut Equipment and Supply Departments were combined, and known as the Supply Department. Every day a constant stream of secretaries poured into the office calling for various kinds of supplies, that were usually in the warehouse to be issued, but when they were not, the old, old story, "A carload of supplies is on the way from Paris, or a truck is coming from Paris tonight," was enough.

Out of the Supply Department developed the Salvage Department. The purpose of this was to keep the property and equipment of the Y. M. C. A. in active service, and dispose of the same when it became certain that it would no longer be needed for Y. M. C. A. purposes. The Salvage Department was organized by the authority of the Executive Committee of the Paris office, and operated under the general supervision of the head of the General Supply Division of the Paris headquarters.

On May 1, an inventory of all hut equipment and supplies was taken by a field secretary, and then the big shift began. Supplies were transferred from one "Y" activities center to another to meet the urgent demands, as the thousands of troops came and went through this area.

When supplies were no longer needed in the various huts and tents they were immediately salvaged and brought into "Y" headquarters. In one day 20 Army and "Y" trucks were sent out, with 85 detail men, and 23 Y. M. C. A. centers salvaged and the supplies brought to our warehouse.

Salvaged supplies were disposed of through a regular sales department, and some were sent back to Paris, to be disposed of there.



# DRY CANTEEN SERVICE

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

January .....	4,307,680.15 francs
February .....	3,601,489.05 francs
March .....	4,164,858.15 francs

On March 31 merchandise invoiced to the Army amounted to 4,318,350.48 francs.

Distribution of Dry Canteen Service in part as follows:

## DRY CANTEEN SERVICE

	January	February	March
Cigars .....	4,750,000	1,325,000	9,752,000
Cigarettes .....	7,245,136	39,150,500	50,815,750
Biscuits .....	120,767,500	121,513,500	97,242,500
Jam .....	12,239,800	23,585,490	42,877,700
Milk .....	1,707,600	15,458,400	21,071,480
Cocoa .....	41,784,375	13,592,100	2,813,500
Chocolate .....	.....	33,653,660	48,464,500
Chewing Tobacco .....	26,130,960	34,705,800	4,791,660
Candles .....	7,872,024	200,000	42,400
Raisins .....	560,000	.....	200,000
Sundries .....	5,065,400	11,882,600	9,034,720
Chocolate Dainties .....	.....	10,000,000	10,835,000
Razors .....	27,000,000	.....	.....
Peanuts .....	220,000	100,000	.....
Soap .....	2,730,000	3,666,000	7,160,000
Handkerchiefs .....	1,872,000	24,260,000	480,000
Towels .....	3,300,000	1,200,000	3,756,000
Chewing Gum .....	5,880,000	11,580,000	3,880,000
Sugar .....	.....	.....	1,665,000
Lemon Drops .....	.....	22,302,000	5,136,000
Candy .....	.....	.....	963,600
Fruit .....	.....	554,000	426,600
Smoking Tobacco .....	.....	.....	11,892,800
Dental Cream .....	.....	1,404,000	4,662,400
Matches .....	.....	.....	21,716,000
Fruit Syrup .....	.....	.....	878,400
Ex. Matches .....	.....	.....	5,625,000

## FIXED HUT EQUIPMENT

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Tents .....	30	45	56	65
Pianos .....	35	51	63	78
Phonographs .....	50	62	80	93
Tables .....	800	1,000	1,500	1,500
Chairs .....	50	100	200	300
Benches .....	1,200	2,000	3,000	3,000
Pens .....	3,500	5,000	7,500	7,500
Paper .....	2,500,000	1,150,000	4,350,000	3,750,000
Envelopes .....	1,350,000	603,000	3,953,000	2,530,000
Post Cards .....	.....	.....	1,077,000	1,000,000

	April	May	June
Tents .....	91	85	68
Pianos .....	85	83	70
Phonographs .....	104	101	85
Tables .....	2,000	2,000	1,500
Chairs .....	300	400	400
Benches .....	4,000	4,500	4,500
Pens .....	7,500	7,500	3,000
Paper .....	3,250,000	2,850,000	1,050,000
Envelopes .....	1,750,000	1,700,000	500,000
Post Cards .....	35,000	300,000	125,000

The Following List Shows Miscellaneous Items of Hut Equipment  
With Which Most Stations Were Adequately Equipped.

Blackboard chalk, box, eraser	Lamp, carbide; lamp, tip; lantern, carbide
Blankets, boiler, 25 gal., 10 gal.	
Broom, bristle, push, corn	Mirror; mop, dish; mug, triangle
Candlestick, can opener	Oil cloth; organ. folding (for mobile areas only)
Carbide, 10-pound can	Pail; pan, dish, large; pan, fry;
Casserole, with cover	pan, stew; percolator
cleansing cloth	Piano (stationary areas only)
Cot, folding, telescope, mattress for same. Pillow for same	Piano cover
Cup and saucer (Officers' Club)	Pitcher, 2-quart; plate, dinner
Dish drain, wire, fire extinguisher	Phonograph, needles, records
Fork, table	Safe, portable, small; strong box
Furniture for Officers' Clubs:	Signs, triangle, enamel, arrow, enamel.
Chair, wicker arm. chaise lounge, table, wicker.	Spoons, mixing, large; tea
Games: Baby billiard set (boxed), checker set, complete, domino set, complete.	Table, folding
Knife, cook; knife, table	Stove, complete w. 5 m. pipe. poker, shovel
	Tea kettle; towel, dish; wash basin

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

A. E. MARRIOTT.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
A. W. PEEL.....	<i>Associate Director</i>
COE HAYNE.....	<i>Director of Games</i>
A. C. JONES.....	<i>Assistant Director of Games</i>
F. L. DAUGHERTY.....	<i>Director of Boxing</i>
J. A. DENNIS.....	<i>Assistant Director of Boxing</i>
W. V. C. NELSON.....	<i>Director of Supplies</i>
	<i>Salvage and Transportation</i>
MISS ALICE E. LEE.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>

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EARLY in the Welfare game the Y. M. C. A. realized the important part which athletics would of necessity play in keeping the great American doughboy as contented and physically fit as possible for him to be while quartered in foreign lands with natural home-land restrictions and limitations more or less removed. "Of necessity" because these men came from a land which believed first and foremost in physical fitness; where athletic exercises and games had played an important part in their life from the "pom-pom pull-away" and "scrub baseball" of grammar school, through high school and college athletics, to the big league baseball, inter-collegiate meets and national competitive events, and whose sons had won so high a place in international athletics. It was the aim of the Athletic Department of the Y. M. C. A. to keep a maximum number of men engaged in the various forms of athletics for a maximum period.

The functioning of the Athletic Department, Y. M. C. A., A. E. C., began in earnest about January, 1919, thirteen "Y" secretaries laboring under three great handicaps—poor weather, lack of equipment and lack of transportation—to provide athletic amusement for 250,000 men at that time located throughout the newly opened area known as the American Embarkation Center. Those were the great days—when the game of starting an athletic program against the almost unsurmountable odds, was a game which had a peculiar appeal to the type of "Y" Athletic Secretaries who had undertaken it. Hardened athletes themselves, they got into the game with but one possible end in view—to win all along the line. One pine table and one rickety chair in one room at "Y" headquarters started their office: one room about 25



## TYPICAL ATHLETIC OCCASIONS

1. Boxing Bout, Forwarding Camp. 2. Football at Ecommoy. 3. Boxing in Town Square at Ecommoy. 4 and 5. Baseball at Classification Camp



feet square containing about enough athletic equipment for one brigade, was the first warehouse: there was one wheezing Ford touring car which could be coaxed to run part of the time—and walking was far from good. But the rest of the equipment was best of all—a lusty, healthy ambition to promote the maximum amount of athletics in the A. E. C., with the slogan “Every doughboy booting the ball!”

The first step was to secure Army coöperation and assistance—G. O. No 241 made it necessary for the Athletic Director to work through and with the Athletic Officer of the A. E. C., before any substantial program in athletics could be promoted. A call at Army Headquarters brought the discovery that no athletic officer had ever been appointed, and the Y. M. C. A. was unable to take any action until this was done. Captain C. C. Childs, now Major, of the 37th Division, was at last secured in this capacity, and he reported for duty March 7. Much of the success of the Y. M. C. A. athletic program was due to the coöperation of the Army and the willingness to help which was shown at all times. Praise is also due to the fifteen soldiers detailed from the Army, who did such excellent work as drivers, warehouse men and assistants in various departments.

The game was now on in earnest. The Athletic Department had begun to make itself known in the region, the demands for supplies grew rapidly, and the working quarters and equipment proved very inadequate to meet the demand. For a time the second floor of 73 Rue Chanzy acted as headquarters for the department, but the warehouse problem led to a search for quarters which could accommodate the entire athletic staff under one roof. This was finally located—a defunct wine distillery which gave a large office space, two large rooms for warehouse purposes, and a large court yard to house transportation. This last matter had been solved quite satisfactorily by adding to the “wheezy” Ford touring car of early winter, a one-ton truck, five camionettes, five Ford touring cars and one Fiat touring car. Thanks to the never ceasing activity of the athletic secretaries, the athletic equipment had also grown in proportion—at an expense of energy and time of manufacture hard to realize. But at last the Athletic Department was “all set” to play the game to a finish, with an organization capable of handling any quantity of men that might come into the area, up to 500,000.

But the solving of the problems had only begun. Athletic programs had to be mapped out—the problem to be faced being to arrange a program which could be put up in a hurry, carried through and broken up at a moment’s notice. Many programs were mapped out and started

only to be smashed by the hurried movements of the troops, and the most successful program which was finally adopted promoted as many spectacular events as possible in the time, but put special emphasis upon informal games. It was finally decided to place particular emphasis on the two most popular sports, baseball and boxing; the rapidity of troop movements—certain units of some divisions moving out before the last units of that division had moved in—making it impossible to push other sports.

Throughout the area, 243 baseball fields have been in almost constant use. That is a bald statement of facts—behind which lurks days of grinding, sweaty toil on the part of the Y. M. C. A. athletic secretaries who made these fields possible. It had been the aim of the Athletic Department to secure athletic fields in every town and village where troops were quartered—and to their credit be it said that the only places where fields were not obtained were those in which the topographical conditions did not grant space enough. The finest athletic field outside of Paris was built at Classification Camp, Le Mans, under the direction of a "Y" athletic secretary, who on his first visit to the field, discovered it to be about eight acres of ground covered with mud shoot deep and water from six inches to a foot. It resembled Hog Island. With Army detail help, averaging 100 men per day, they had finished at the end of the twenty-first day, a track, football and soccer field, baseball field, basketball court, two tennis courts, a twenty-foot boxing ring; covered and fixed the camp roads, erected five large tents and ten small ones for use of the athletes, and built eleven grand stands. It was a struggle with wind and weather, the soldier details working the greater share of the time in hip boots and raincoats.

Again, when the "Y" athletic secretary endeavored to promote an athletic meet for the permanent personnel of Forwarding Camp, of which he was athletic director, a field had to be built. His own words will best describe how this was done: "Promises were secured from military authorities to handle the grounds and engineering, but up to the last day nothing was done except to rake the ballfield and fill in some holes in the track. If the meet were to continue, some action was necessary, so the "Y" athletic director had to get busy. I got the line and measured and marked the nine lane tracks, the quarter-mile track, and marked all the distances. I laid out and dug the jumping pits, shot-put circle, baseball diamond, playground diamond, volleyball court, and quoit fields; also the baseball throw, tug-of-war, and manufactured the equipment needed for same, just as if the Army did not exist. I did not do this, however, until it was self-evident that details

from the Army could not be secured." In the face of such determination, it is not to be wondered that the Athletic Department put over so fine a program for the Y. M. C. A. in the American Embarkation Center.

There came a time in the early spring when sunshine ceased to be a novelty, and the great American doughboy was seized with a bad case of baseball fever. Games were played in every conceivable place, mostly informal, and the divisional and camp Y. M. C. A. athletic secretaries found themselves very busily engaged in organizing and directing this great desire of the American youth in France. Schedules had to be short, because of the rapid movements of the troops, but Company, Regimental, Brigade and Divisional championships were staged in the area and some very good baseball was promoted. But the promotion of leagues was found necessary and all the camps in the area were organized under supervision of the camp directors. Detached units scattered about the area were also organized into leagues under the permanent directors of the areas in which their camps were situated. The A. E. C. League was composed of teams from the larger camps and played a schedule in which each team played nine games. To represent the A. E. F. in the Inter-allied Games was the honor which fell to the American Embarkation Center team, known as the "Black Hawks," which was one of the first teams organized in this area. It was originally intended to make this an all-star team, but many of the camps disputed its right to represent the A. E. C. without clearly demonstrating that it was the best team in the region. Some of the best baseball promoted in the A. E. F. has been fought on the Class Camp field, and as game after game was won, many star players were added to the "Black Hawk" line-up. Victorious at home, the "Black Hawks" entered the lists for the baseball honor of the A. E. F. in the Inter-allied Games, and won the "Over Seas" flag.

But the crowning feat in baseball was the promotion of a league among the colored troops in the Le Mans region. By dint of much hunting, eight camps of negro troops were found scattered in the towns around Le Mans, which were organized into a league known as the "Dixie League." Now this league wasn't the ordinary kind of a league—but don't think because it was a colored league that they couldn't play baseball, for they could. Almost every team in the Dixie League had one or more famous colored players in its line-up—men who had once starred on such clubs as "Rube Foster's American Giants" of Chicago, and other equally famous colored teams in the States. Some of the most enjoyable and interesting games in the Le Mans

region were put on by these colored boys, which served not only as recreation and sport for them, but as entertainment for the white spectators. There was one Sunday in May which will ever stand out in the memory of the fortunate white boys who were located within walking distance of Class Camp, for the athletic secretary in charge of the Dixie League arranged to transport his entire eight teams to the Class Camp field to play off their final games. Now, when it comes to playing baseball, no matter how good he may be at the sport, the negro is a comedian par excellence. He has his own inimitable way of making funny remarks and doing funny things and whether he's rooting or whether he's playing, he's always funny and always original. This Sunday was no exception and for many a week after, the white population of Classification Camp were still chuckling at the memory of one of the most unique and mirth-provoking carnivals ever staged in the history of the Yanks in France.

While there is no question but that baseball will ever remain the sport nearest the American doughboy's heart, boxing, good boxing, has a strong appeal to the American soldier. The Athletic Department, realizing this, and working under G. O. No. 241, began early in the season to promote bouts purely for entertainment.

During the inclement weather, matches were held indoors, in huts, barracks, auditoriums and theatres—many under the most difficult conditions. There were a number of places where no boxing could be held because of no available space, but an opportunity was never lost to put on either formal or informal bouts wherever possible. Gradually, however, the weather opened up and the sunshine drove the boys into the open air. The matter of building out-door platforms—many times against the greatest odds—was taken up by the "Y" officials, and twenty-five boxing rings were established in the various centers where the largest number of troops could be reached. This was not done easily. The Y. M. C. A. as a welfare organization found itself severely handicapped in promoting this sport by a bitter competition with other welfare organizations, but notwithstanding this attitude was able to promote an amount of boxing which has never been surpassed anywhere. Concessions were granted which should have been unnecessary, but the "Y" had the interest of the soldier at heart, and desired only that they might have the maximum amount of entertainment. All this time the eliminations for the A. E. F. championships were starting, and boxing increased almost miraculously. Eliminations were held everywhere. In the divisions the matches were held in the platoons, companies and regiments, and in a big meet the divisional champion-



ships were decided. In the camps, the same system was worked to determine the best men in the area—all these being conducted by the united effort of the Army officers and the "Y" athletic directors. No other welfare organization had any part in these elimination events because a careful study of the conditions proved that the "Y" was the only organization with a sufficient number of men in the field to promote such a program.

Perhaps the most spectacular and entertaining boxing events were those staged in the bandstand in the Park des Jacobins where every Friday night the finest boxing program of the area gave the boys stationed in Le Mans and their visitors something to remember and talk about until the next show. No one could attend one of these bouts without realizing their exceptional value as a means of entertainment and diversion to the soldier. Park des Jacobins, once a part of a Roman amphitheatre, with its wonderful arching high above the terraces, so arranged that thousands could witness the boxing events without obstructing the view of the others, was a most interesting sight. As many as 18,000 men at one time have witnessed the boxing entertainment in this park, which should be sufficient testimony to the popularity of boxing among the A. E. F.

The reader might readily gather from the foregoing paragraphs that the Y. M. C. A. Athletic Department was paying attention to nothing but baseball and boxing, but this war far from the truth. It is a little bit difficult to realize that these athletic secretaries were handling a situation which had never before been equalled in the number of participants, spectators, and variety of athletic sports demanded. One is accustomed to believe that the yearly athletic program of our biggest colleges at home embraces the expenditure of a huge amount of money to say nothing of the time and training necessary to prepare for the events. In this connection also, the athletic fields and stadiums are a part of the college equipment and one is not likely to figure them except in the general overhead column. Imagine then, if you can, a body of men twice outnumbering the total enrollment of our six biggest colleges combined, who, unlike the students referred to, had no regular schedule of work into which their athletics fitted as a recreation, but for whom time was something which hung heavily on their hands. They were bored, tired, disgusted and discouraged men, and they had to be kept busy physically or their mental condition would grow rapidly worse. Even then, the problem would not have been so complex had there been ready the necessary athletic fields and equipment. But this had to be provided at the expense of time, labor and

money not to be reckoned in words. The promotion of the baseball and boxing alone was a huge task, but in addition there were some very much worth-while events in the track and field, soccer and Rugby football, basketball and wrestling. Hut secretaries and women workers were impressed into service as potential athletic directors and the Athletic Department is much indebted to them for the amount of games they were able to promote. No group was too small nor conditions too hard but some form of activity was promoted. No matter what part of the area was visited, it was impossible to travel very far without finding boys engaged in some recreational activity. Here, two boys playing catch, pitching quoits, or tossing the basketball. Further on, larger groups at volleyball, indoor baseball, etc., in the village squares, streets or yards, boxing, and such activities going on in the billets and barracks. It is very hard to record this form of activity, but the Athletic Department made it its business to see that every hut secretary included athletic supplies in his equipment, and from the condition in which this equipment was in when salvaged, it is safe to assume it was used almost continuously.

It was left to the 26th Division to put on one of the most unique athletic meets ever staged in this area—unique in that the events were entirely of a mass type with the exception of the boxing, football and tug-of-war. All other events were squad, platoon or company. Of the purely military events nothing was left out which a soldier was supposed to know or do, in which events nearly 3,000 men were competing at one time. There was an eight kilometer company march, equipment race, gas mask race, mental alertness race and ten pitching, while relay races, football passing and other purely athletic stunts added an interesting note. Great care had been taken in organizing the athletic work of the Division and in choosing the officials, whose work had to be accurate and speedy, as only three days' training was given the men who were to compete. The morning of the meet dawned with everything set to start the schedule of the meet, which called for three days of competitions to end at a certain hour on the third day. The meet closed two minutes ahead of schedule, and a clock could not have run with greater smoothness, and 30,000 spectators pronounced it the snappiest and most interesting athletic spectacle so far produced in the area.

Just before the close of February, word was received that the American Embarkation Center was to be represented in the A. E. F. championships by a team of its own instead of being part of the S. O. S., as was originally planned. Less than five weeks was the time given



DIVERSIFIED ATHLETICS

1. S. O. S. Championship. 2. General Pershing Trap Shooting at Belgian Camp. 3 and 5. S. O. S. Championship. 4. Basket ball, Class Camp. 6 and 7. Boxing, Jacobins Gardens

in which to pick teams in soccer and Rugby football, basketball, boxing, wrestling and track, and in which to run the elimination events. It was actually March 10 before any real action could be taken for getting men and materials together, owing to the fact that there was no athletic officer and the Y. M. C. A. organization was in its infancy. Time was short and topnotch speed was required to put the job across. The "Y" had 23 athletic secretaries, out of which 12 gave practically their full time to the working up of the A. E. C. meet. The Army had eight officers who were giving all the time they could spare; the K. of C. had one athletic secretary, giving his full time, and the other welfare organizations had no one to help.

Classification Camp Athletic Field, now the finest in the entire region, had to be built; materials of all kinds were needed, the biggest share of them being manufactured for the occasion; a French mechanic at the eleventh hour manufactured a fairly good hammer; javelins were ordered made and after great difficulty in securing hard wood for the javelin stick, bamboo poles were discovered and made into very satisfactory implements; several trips to Paris secured running shirts, track shoes, soccer uniforms, vaulting poles, etc., and preparations for the meet began to shape up. One of the welfare organizations had promised to supply a certain number of shirts, running pants and shoes, but when called upon to deliver same, were unable to do so, and the Y. M. C. A. made up the deficiency. More than 95 per cent of all equipment used at this meet was furnished by the Y. M. C. A. But the three days of the meet, March 27, 28 and 29, were wonderful days which more than repaid the extraordinary effort which had to be made to make this meet possible. There were 11 bands competing; ten infantry companies drilled, and seven squads pitched tents against time as side attractions to the regular athletic events in football, baseball, basketball, boxing, track and field. For two days the rain poured and the men toiled under most adverse conditions. The third day saw the sun occasionally breaking through the heavy clouds, but when evening closed over the muddy, rain-soaked field, there was a huge sigh of relief from all participants. Major General Read, Commanding Officer of the A. E. C. at that time, presented medals furnished by the Y. M. C. A., to the winning athletes of the various events, saying in his address to them: "The A. E. C. athletic and military tournament was a triumph. I am proud of the spirit shown by the contestants. When I saw the men competing in the drizzle and slush, I felt a thrill I shall never forget."

Too much thanks cannot be offered to the French people, especially



the military authorities, for the manner in which they coöperated with the Athletic Department of the Y. M. C. A. in the promotion of all kind of athletics. Early in the season, when the Americans were struggling to find space on which to build their athletic fields, the French came forward with the offer of the Velodrome de Beaulieu or, as it was commonly called, French Field, for the use of our troops. The "Y" was permitted to use the field every week day, and, in conjunction with the French, on Sundays. It consisted of a concrete bicycle track, 400-metre cinder track, 100-yard straight-away, jumping pits, weight circles, two tennis courts, football field, and baseball diamond with grand stand and dressing rooms—an ideal field beautifully located, and, coming as it did, it was a boon to the Americans. In addition to this field there were three other French fields used by the Americans, during their stay in this region, for local sports. The good spirit thus started between American and French in the athletic field led to the first Franco-American meet ever held in the A. E. F., which took place on Sunday, April 20. At the invitation of the French the Americans joined in a dual athletic meet, being more than glad of this opportunity to try their skill against that of the French. The meet was confined to track events, the Americans winning every heat but one, and taking all medals except one second place. In spite of this apparent one-sidedness, however, the spirit of the occasion was one of clean competition and good sport, while a friendly and appreciative French audience did much to help the visiting Americans to a better understanding of this side of their French ally. All American officials at this meet were Y. M. C. A. Athletic Directors.

It is a matter of fact that the courtesy of the French officials has made the work of the Athletic Department in the A. E. F. much pleasanter than could be possibly expected. The relationships with both the civil and military French authorities have been most cordial, and perfect harmony has existed at all times. The debt of gratitude is one which has been repaid in but a small way. The French officials have given everything they possessed to make the athletic program a success—the use of their fields, their theatres and their parks; they have loaned us athletes and the French boxers have entertained many thousands of our soldiers. To repay these favors the "Y" has supplied athletes, equipment and music to the French events, putting on baseball and football matches for the French on their holidays and Sundays. Nevertheless, the score stands in their favor—and no courtesy should be overlooked in demonstrating the Y. M. C. A.'s appreciation of the treatment received while on French soil.

The Athletic Department of the A. E. C. without doubt put over the biggest program in its line in the whole A. E. F. Beginning, as it did in January, 1919, with hardly enough equipment, personnel, etc., to take a long breath, it gathered momentum as time went on until there was no other organization which had as many men engaged or entertained as the "Y." During its six months of operation over 3,000,000 men were engaged in athletics; 7,000,000 were entertained; 12 different nations received benefits from the athletic programs; approximately 80,000 pieces of athletic material, valued at \$175,000, was issued, etc.

But figures cannot tell the story. It will be told for years to come by boys who were kept occupied, who were equipped to participate in the athletic programs, whose weary wait for the big trip home was made a bit less boresome by the interesting events he could take part in or witness. By boys whose minds and bodies were kept wholesomely occupied, and who found that the athletic secretaries had a freindly interest in them and their tastes and desires. Men who returned to their homes clean and physically fit, because of the opportunity given them to play in congenial surroundings. No, figures do not count in the summing up of this service—but the Red Triangle never stood for a better or broader work, a work productive of more far-reaching results, than this; a work which taxed every member of its personnel, which drew from them the very best they had to give, but which was given with a spirit of earnest service, with a vision of the splendid citizenship awaiting these men in the homeland, and for which they must be kept strong and clean.

## ATHLETIC STATISTICS

### PARTICIPANTS

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
Baseball .....	404	1,008	56,849	195,014	388,822	232,293
Indoor Baseball .....	1,076	5,643	26,437	35,498	53,115	31,869
Basketball .....	2,600	1,750	13,404	15,817	17,441	10,464
Boxing .....	1,600	3,000	4,183	2,148	5,806	3,483
Football .....	59,600	107,100	65,487	17,182	32,892	....
Quoits .....	....	....	4,911	19,457	40,812	24,481
Setting Up .....	94,720	276,935	153,325	38,345	45,150	....
Tennis .....	....	....	3,690	2,125	8,114	6,491
Track and Field Volley						
Ball .....	2,800	5,500	17,867	42,228	46,681	18,672
Wrestling .....	1,650	1,567	953	106	741	....
Informal .....	33,784	95,469	153,325	269,156	121,259	97,007
Swimming .....	....	....	....	....	46,460	63,000
Gymnastics .....	....	....	....	....	3,700	1,480
Totals .....	198,234	497,972	508,371	640,271	818,130	491,680

## SPECTATORS

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
Baseball .....	2,424	7,056	339,630	569,548	1,030,560	618,306
Indoor Baseball ..	2,394	10,967	39,645	54,520	89,415	53,649
Basketball .....	3,490	1,963	15,671	18,875	17,505	10,503
Boxing .....	192,000	360,000	488,745	257,370	347,045	314,340
Football .....	119,200	214,200	130,974	23,040	7,893	....
Quoits .....	....	....	6,743	22,800	37,307	186,653
Tennis .....	....	....	22,140	14,506	26,900	21,520
Track and Field...	....	....	31,760	13,150	26,090	13,040
Volley Ball .....	1,760	2,563	3,472	49,025	48,940	16,312
Wrestling .....	5,400	15,760	3,472	4,050	16,700	....
Informal .....	....	....	19,345	82,350	84,965	50,979
Totals .....	326,668	602,509	1,101,597	1,108,934	1,034,640	1,017,302

## ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT ISSUED

Item	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Total
Baseballs .....	36	72	2,160	15,072	7,790	1,564	26,694
Baseball Bats .....	10	20	590	954	980	468	3,022
Baseball Masks .....	5	14	575	239	256	49	1,138
Catchers' Mitts .....	7	10	775	239	203	66	1,300
Body Protectors .....	5	14	625	250	157	12	1,063
First Basemen's Mitts	7	10	...	225	187	49	478
Indicators .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Indoor Balls .....	....	....	1,576	435	208	42	3,261
Volley Balls .....	280	550	1,840	285	51	52	3,058
Nets, Volley Ball....	....	250	1,420	285	108	52	2,115
Volley Ball Bladders.	....	....	....	....	56	52	108
Basketballs .....	260	175	1,510	140	12	52	2,149
Basketball Goals .....	....	325	1,820	435	34	18	2,632
Rugby Footballs .....	2,710	4,755	1,910	572	...	5	9,952
Soccer Balls .....	270	600	1,725	381	...	...	2,279
Fielders' Mitts .....	75	250	375	3,000	811	350	4,861
Boxing Gloves (sets)	80	150	240	1,707	172	45	2,394
Medicine Balls .....	28	65	150	101	38	30	412
Tug of War Ropes ..	....	15	35	25	11	20	106
Boxing Ring Ropes..	....	25	110	11	...	11	157
Iron Quoits .....	....	....	100	25	27	63	215
Cage Balls .....	....	....	....	15	...	...	15
Play Ground Balls...	....	....	....	....	258	125	383
Tennis Balls .....	....	....	....	92	57	60	209
Tennis Racquets .....	....	....	....	87	30	50	167
Tennis Nets .....	....	....	....	18	22	25	65
Tennis Shoes .....	....	....	....	15	16	50	81
Basketball Uniforms.	....	....	....	....	76	40	116
Football Uniforms ..	51	82	50	20	8	10	221
Baseball Pants .....	....	....	....	64	70	50	184
Baseball Shirts .....	....	....	....	64	70	50	184
Track Pants .....	....	....	....	60	25	50	135
Track Shirts .....	....	....	....	60	25	50	135
Track Shoes .....	....	....	....	29	...	12	41
Bases .....	....	....	....	....	....	20	20
Totals .....	3,824	7,382	17,586	24,005	11,758	3,592	69,150

## ENTERTAINMENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

MADISON COREY.....	<i>Regional Director</i>
H. A. HUDSON.....	<i>General Manager Activities</i>
V. O. WINKENWEDER.....	<i>Publicity</i>
GLEN VORE.....	<i>Personnel</i>



THE HISTORY of "Entertainment" for the American soldier by the Y. M. C. A. must necessarily be a combined report of Y. M. C. A. and Army service, due to the fact that the A. E. F. Show World was so closely combined in the two factors serving.

In telling the growth of entertainment in the A. E. C., it is necessary to include a period which precedes the actual date which the history is intended to cover and furnish a synopsis of the first candle circuit in the A. E. C., with booking offices on the top floor of the A. E. C. Headquarters Building or the Senior Chaplain's office which acted as a clearing house for both Army and "Y" entertainers. This booking office had its inception immediately after the signing of the Armistice and although its wheel of houses was small indeed, it was the nucleus of the greatest amusement forces which served the A. E. F. Each week found several Y. M. C. A. concert parties in from Paris and talent was being recruited and formed into additional Army shows from the personnel which then formed the A. E. C.

Just three days before Christmas the A. E. C. Central Booking Office was moved to 67 Rue Chanzy, Le Mans, which became widely known as "Entertainment House," an a spot which actually became historic from a newspaper angle. Assuming as it then did, a single separate unit, Entertainment House became suddenly the vendor of one of the most essential activities of a soldier's life, whose mind had suddenly been averted from an objective which had been accomplished. The highest Army officials have commended the theatre as being the greatest single factor in maintaining the morale in men.

Although the personnel of Entertainment House was still small when the home was founded, gigantic plans were laid which rapidly materialized. Christmas Day found all forces ready to furnish abundant amusement to the hungry soldiers. There was a continuous program at Base Hospital No. 52 and a continuous show at the Salle des Concerts, one of Le Mans' larger theatres which became historic as one of the first French theatres occupied by the Americans.

With the first of 1919 a newer and more comprehensive program for



amusing the thousands of homegoing men was laid. Hundreds of entertainers were arriving from the States to tour the A. E. F., for the Y. M. C. A. and O. T. T. L. and the U. S. Army had instituted a systematic program for organization of additional show troops from its talented personnel.

Y. M. C. A. Headquarters at Paris realized that the Le Mans Region was the largest in the A. E. F., and that here there must be a concentration of effort. On January 15 Madison Corey, a New York City theatre manager, arrived at Entertainment House to manage the program for the Y. M. C. A. Appreciating not only the heavy responsibilities but the great possibilities which entertainment held in the life of the soldier, Mr. Corey immediately laid the foundation for what S. O. S. Headquarters of the American Army at Tours reported as being the largest producing machine of the A. E. F. A report for the month of January stated four Y. M. C. A. playing troupes and about a half-dozen Army shows. These, with transient groups of players from the various home-going divisions played about six hundred shows during the month to a total audience not exceeding a hundred thousand men. The value of the words, amazing growth in the A. E. C. Show World, may be appreciated when the figures mentioned for the month of January are compared with those for the month of April, when there were 4250 performances given to a combined audience of more than 3,500,000, and in May when there were 3914 performances to an attendance of over 2,800,000.

Of course, this remarkable feat was attended with many interesting tales of trouping the gasoline circuit by the flivver route. Theatres were scarce and shows were played in huts, tents, on trucks, in the open on tables and possibly even in the loft of some French barn or stable. What professional actor or actress ever thought as they leaned over the glistening footlights of a metropolitan theatre, to an audience robed in tulle and lace, that their's was to be the privilege of trouping France in rain and mud, mimicking and making merry for the victorious soldiers of our country! It is a tribute to the professional entertainer, that his experience in the American Show World doing one night stands after this metropolitan engagement, enabled him to withstand the hardship of a French Winter of rain and go on continuously. Sickness among the professionals was rare and it was an indomitable spirit which many times sent them in their ride of miles to a flapping tent in wind or rain, where they sang and danced behind candles on a rickety stage for boys who might otherwise not have been able to write home and tell mother. "It's a long wait, but everything's fine, shows

every night, with girls and all."

In Le Mans proper there were more than a dozen show houses open to the American soldier after April 1, whereas the French could at no time have boasted more than three. It was about the middle of March that the magnificent Municipal Theatre was thrown open to the soldiers with the best productions and at all times free. The first American show to grace these boards was the Argonne Players of the 77th Division, a show which itself has a historic record.

Entertainment House was not, however, just a clearing house or booking agency for traveling shows of the Y. M. C. A. and Army. It became known as the largest "Play Factory" in the A. E. F. Three of the most successful shows which have toured the A. E. F., and the largest single production were staged in that home of fun. The "Le Mans Players" in "Under Cover," was one of the best stock companies in France. These players were recruited from the ranks of the O. T. T. L., and Canteen workers of the Y. M. C. A. and soldier talent. Later "Wildfire" was presented, which was the most remarkable attempt at American play production, due to the extreme care required in picking a cast to qualify for the parts and situations. Both of these shows enjoyed long runs over the A. E. F. circuit. The "Le Mans All Star Frolic," the name adopted by a caste of "All Star Acts," comprised one of the most novel bills of amusement afforded anywhere and was a show which might easily have graced the boards of our best vaudeville houses in America. There were, of course, many other all-soldier shows which were produced under the direction of Y. M. C. A. assistants and were equipped for presentation by the Y. M. C. A. Several of these shows comprised the oldest soldier units in the A. E. F. and received commendory citations from commanding officers at various points for the excellency of their efforts. The biggest undertaking of this sort was a pageant, "The Funeral of Athelstane," given by Battery A, 304th Field Artillery, 77th Division, at Pirmil, a great medieval pageant in which every man of Battery A, 304 Field Artillery of the 77th Division participated, and was staged in a snug valley of the rolling hills surrounding Pirmil, France, on Tuesday, March 25. Just after noon, with the sun glancing from the shining spears, the procession presenting the entire tourgae for the funeral of Athelstane swung down the road from the Chapel of Copenhurst to the Castle of Coningsburg, where the regular rites of funeral ceremonies and the barbeque were to be held. There were over three hundred American soldiers in the parade representing in order of march, Acieric Knights, Archers, Horsemen, Ladies of the Household, Norman Footmen, and

Saxons, all arrayed in the garments of the day with accoutrements.

Upon arrival at the Castle Coningsburg, the body of Athelstane was placed in state and in honor of the late deceased, a great conclave ensued, in which every native in the countryside came to pay homage to the death of the noble hero.

As the program for the funeral of Athelstane announced the "Order of ye Events" was as follows:

Procession. Combat Dance of Ferric Men at Arms. Manouvres of Norman Foot Troops. Dance of Ye Saxons, Combats of Stannic Knights and Men at Arms. Sports of Ye Yoemanry. Adjourn to Ye Castle. Eating of Ye Baked Meats and Drinking of Ye Meade. Music and Entertainment in Further Honor of Ye Deceased. Inter-macion de Cadaver de Athelstane.

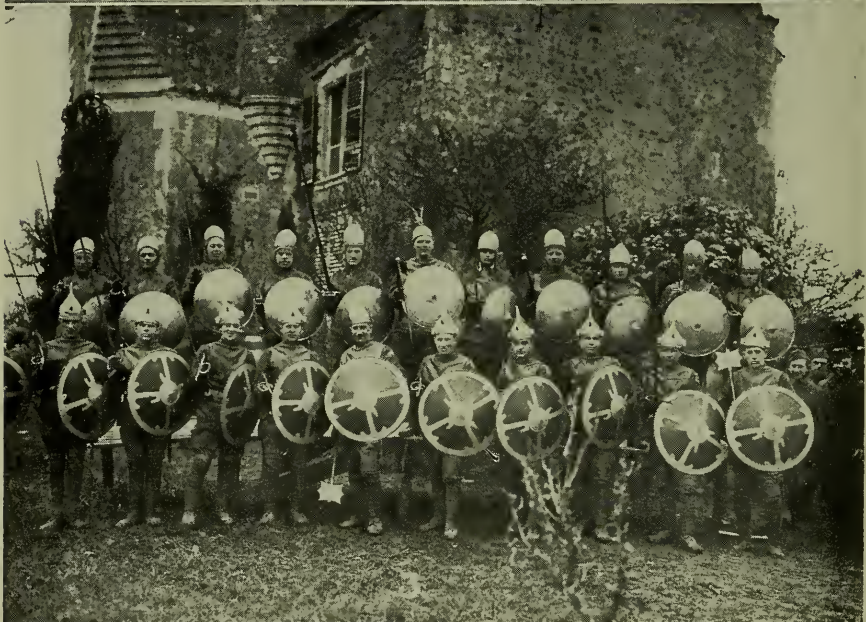
Armor, helmets, coats of mail, visors and swords borne by men in medieval costumes, clashed and glittered in the afternoon sun and "Ivanhoe" seemed to be re-enacted before you by a lot of doughboys whose homes were in great old New York City, where the clash and clang of the busy streets were the only sounds of their stage. With tin of packing boxes, armor and helmets had been smithed. Monks' robes were made from shelter halves, rafia formed the wigs and the American rifle was affected into crossbars.

This entire production was made possible through the coöperation of the Y. M. C. A. and the numerous costumes and equipment which were secured and furnished with great effort due to the care required in assuming the proper interpretation of the period.

That there was an excellent morale among the entertainers themselves may be seen from a tale which came from the Central Hut, Le Mans, which was the scene of the famous "Midnight Frolics." A clipping from the Le Mans Theatre Magazine "Life," reads as follows: "The occasion was commonly known as the 'Midnight Frolics' at 'Y' Central Hut, uptown, and it was the actors' little get-together just before catching the necessary forty winks. 'Midnight Frolics' became quite the thing and you weren't in it unless you were known by your first name in the 'Garden of Fun and Frolic.' Each night found Muggeridge, Jenkins, Anne Lucky, Winnie, Hinda Hand, Joyce, Rappleye, Pantzer and many other favorites vamping nightly for the pleasure of those who dared the midnight drops of rain.

"Soon the Frolics outgrew the crowded hut and Saturday nights found them at the Salle des Concerts. Here all the live wires gathered for the Saturday night's fun, which had covered the usual round when back on Broadway. Rooftoppers were topped and Ziegfield might





1. Playing to a Packed House; Taken at 7:30 P. M. 2. Midnight Frolics at Central Hut.  
4. Entertainment, Double Hangar, at Belgian Camp. 5. Old Theatre at Belgian Camp



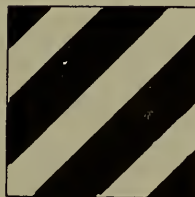
have chosen some new stars to twinkle atop the Amsterdam, could he have caught one of these doughboy frolics. And just then Mr. Weatherman changed his program, the sun does duty until almost three-quarters day and we all went in for the wilds and the great outdoors."

Entertainment House is, of course, the recognized name which covers the home of the "Y" and Army Theatre. Both the Y. M. C. A. and Army had its well organized details in charge. Madison Corey acted as Director for the Y. M. C. A., and Lieutenant C. C. Young, Entertainment Officer for the Army. There was a perfect coördination of forces and to say the least Entertainment House formed a model combination of an up-to-date "Play Factory" and booking office.

Without question entertainment was one of the most valuable forces in the life of the soldier after the signing of the Armistice. The A. E. F. Theatre has been commended as being the greatest builder of morale available. The benefits, however, have been manifold. The American stage has profited greatly by its experiences abroad and much new talent has been brought out by the encouragement it received. The American was taught a new appreciation for that which was refined and classic and the stage was elevated to a new and higher plane.

#### ENTERTAINMENT STATISTICS

Months	No. of Stations	Expense	No. Entertain- ments	Attend- ance
December .....	75	Fr. 5,130.10	225	200,000
January .....	75	3,705.20	1,000	680,000
February .....	110	8,172.50	1,307	800,000
March .....	175	61,601.51	2,554	1,750,000
April .....	175	83,278.45	4,250	2,044,000
May .....	175	129,436.15	3,914	2,040,000



## AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS ENTERTAINMENT OFFICER, A. E. C.

Le Mans, France, June 19, 1919.

From: Captain W. H. Faulk, Entertainment Officer, A. E. C.

To: The Commanding General, A. E. C. (through channels).

Subject: Consistory report entertainment activities in detail.

1. Fifteen road shows have been produced and routed from this section since July, 1918, those being major performances and going on circuit. In addition to these approximately 150 lesser units, such as orchestras and two, three, four and five-men acts, have been formed from time to time for inter-area activity and some of these have been given inter-area routings.

2. In the following summary of activities "show" is taken to be road show, or unit larger than five persons.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Month	Year	Number Stations Entertained	Number Perform- ances	New Shows Formed	Attend- ance
July .....	1918	6	30	1	20,000
August .....	1918	10	50	0	50,000
September .....	1918	16	75	0	85,000
October .....	1918	30	100	0	93,000
November .....	1918	50	200	0	130,000
December .....	1918	75	225	1	800,000
January .....	1919	75	1,000	4	680,000
February .....	1919	110	1,507	3	200,000
March .....	1919	175	2,564	3	1,750,000
April .....	1919	175	4,250	1	2,044,915
May .....	1919	175	3,914	3	3,540,815
June (two weeks) .....	1919	95	1,696	0	1,225,000
Totals .....			15,401	15	9,646,425

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES—BASE SECTION—LE MANS

Month	No. Stations in Section	No. Stations Entertained	Soldier Shows	Y. M. C. A. Shows	Attend- ance
January .....	75	75	400	300	650,000
February .....	110	110	450	366	800,000
March .....	175	175	1,000	800	1,750,000
April .....	175	175	1,500	950	2,044,915
May .....	175	175	1,492	1,375	2,540,816
To June 15th .....	95	95	900	796	1,225,900

## CINEMA IN THE A. E. C.

## PERSONNEL

S. W. FRIES.....	<i>Director</i>
EDNA MOSS.....	<i>Exchange Secretary</i>
W. B. HOPKINS.....	<i>Supervisor</i>
D. M. BUTLER.....	<i>Delco Inspector</i>
M. L. LAWTON.....	<i>Delco Installator</i>
E. P. LEONARD.....	<i>Transportation</i>
CHAS. BAUMBACH.....	<i>Assistant Supervisor</i>



NE of the most valuable and interesting phases of Y. M. C. A. work in the A. E. C., and indeed among the entire American forces, was that carried on by the Cinema Department. The Cinema forces consisted of scurrying bands of movie men who carried congealed comedies, dramas, and thrillers on celluloid to the lonesome men at the most outlying area.

The growth of the Cinema Department presents one of the mazing accomplishments for which the A. E. C. became famous. In November, 1918, after the Armistice was signed, the first reels of American pictures, and two projectors arrived in Le Mans. At that time there was no special Y. M. C. A. Cinema Department and the responsibility of showing these pictures in the area devolved upon the Entertainment Director. A force of six men was detailed to the "Y" by the Army, and the actual directorship of bookings was carried on through the Senior Chaplain's Department on the top floor of what was later the A. E. C. Headquarters Building. It was at that time that the now historic Salle des Concerts of Le Mans became the first American movie house in the A. E. C., and with the thousands of moving troops, men lined for blocks each afternoon and evening to see their old favorites of "Maries" and Chaplins" cavorting in romance and comedy.

With the advent of Entertainment House at 67 rue Chanzy, Le Mans, a special Y. M. C. A., directorship of movies was established, with Mr. Chas. Fox Rich in charge. It was on this same date that the first delcos arrived from Tours and outlying points were assured of their movie treat.

In January, 1919, there were forty stationary projectors in the area and a total of sixty-five programs which were so booked that the maximum number of troops were allowed to enjoy them. Records show a total of 134 performances for the month with an attendance of more than 75,000.

There was continuous improvement of the Cinema equipment until in May, 1919, the central booking office of the Cinema Department in Le Mans had equipment consisting of 53 stationary projectors, 29 portable machines with delco, and a hundred programs. With these facilities, a total of two thousand performances were presented to a combined attendance of 76,500. The banner week for movie shows in the A. E. C., was for the week of June 8 to June 14, when 464 shows were given.

With the cessation of the rainy season in the spring of 1919 advantage was taken for outdoor movies, and what was known as the "Flying Squadron" came into evidence. This was a string of cars with delcos which nightly carried picture shows to the most remote areas where screens were placed on the side of a hut, or billet or possibly a frame held intact with a large army truck. At these shows every man in the area would gather around on the ground and get his treat of thrillers. In Le Mans there were out-door pictures on the Place de Republique where they were projected on the Hotel Dauphin, and thousands of both Americans and French enjoyed them nightly. Other shows were given in the Parc de Jacobins, not to mention the performances in the many huts.

The Cinema Department was under the direction of Mr. S. W. Fries since April 15th, who formerly was an inspector of the Delco service for the Y. M. C. A. The concentrated endeavor to furnish the most and best was successful, and throughout the last three months almost perfect efficiency was attained.

Many nights after a scheduled run of shows and a truck with portable delco would be returning to Le Mans, marching troops would be encountered on the road. If arrangements could be made with the commanding officer of the men, troops were halted, heavy packs were thrown aside and the men were given the same show which had already been given to other stationery units. A screen was fitted between trees, or against a truck and the portable delco backed away to play its celluloid actors.

At other times a portable might draw up to a town where the voltage was entirely too high and it looked at first as though the personnel must go without their movie treat. Each truck, however, had its electrical expert and even though the extreme had to be resorted to, movies were shown. Possibly the pair of wires was run down the outside of a building, cross irons used and currents reduced, but in any event results were obtained.

On one occasion the Cinema Department sent an S. O. S. Portable



on a flying trip to every town between Le Mans and Paris where there were M. P. stations but no regularly organized facilities for offering shows. In this way these outlying points all received their evening merriment delivered to the company street.

## CINEMA STATISTICS

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June 15
Stationary Machines .	40	45	51	52	81	44
Portable Machines ...	....	3	2	13	29	36
No. of Performances.	300	481	754	1,800	2,047	913
Attendance Combined.	316,000	275,000	585,000	762,000	954,000	408,366
Feet of Film Used....	325,000	240,000	275,000	325,000	100,000	100,000
Cost of Equipment ...	\$ 17,300	\$ 20,350	\$ 17,400	\$ 53,800	\$100,000	\$100,000

For month of June investment in films was 90 programs at \$2.50 each, or \$22,500.



## ACTIVITIES IN LA SUZE AREA

1. Theatre at Malicorne. 4. Reading Room, Malicorne. 2. Colored "Y," La Suze.
3. Cocoa Boilers in Battle Array. 5, 6, 8. Mass Singing in the Open; "Y" Girl Leader.
5. Preparations for Refreshments at Divisional Review

## EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

## PERSONNEL

E. C. ALDER.....	<i>Area Adviser of Education</i>
JOHN C. COULTER.....	
.....	<i>Area Adviser of Agricultural Education</i>
O. N. SMITH.....	<i>Assistant Area Adviser of Education</i>
ROY FUNDERBURK.....	<i>Magazines and Periodicals</i>
A. B. VOSSLER.....	<i>Sight-seeing Trips</i>
FRANCIS J. PERKINS.....	<i>Sight-seeing Trips</i>
ERNEST YOUTZ.....	<i>Secretary</i>
AGNES LATIMER BACON.....	<i>Library</i>
MABEL OTIS.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
C. E. COSAND.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
D. O. BRILLHART.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>
H. C. OSTIEN.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>
J. H. McBANE.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
O. C. BAKER.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
RUSSELL NELSON.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>
J. W. MCGINNIS.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>
SAMUEL L. EBY.....	<i>Divisional Adviser Education</i>
D. L. THOMAS.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
E. KARLSON.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>
A. J. FRY.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
A. B. COPE.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
ROY NICHOLS.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>
C. L. LEE.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>
H. W. LANGWORTHY.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
J. S. WRAY.....	<i>Divisional Adviser of Education</i>
W. E. WELLONS.....	<i>Assistant Divisional Adviser Education</i>



HORTLY after the signing of the Armistice, when the Le Mans region began to grow in importance and became the center for thousands of soldiers whose business in life had changed from active warfare to the monotony of awaiting transportation, the "Y" faced an unusual opportunity and challenge. Under the supervision of J. W. Powell of the University of Minnesota, later Field Supervisor for the Army Education Corps, G. H. Q., this challenge was taken up and through much hard labor, successfully worked out.

There were usually difficulties to be overcome in inaugurating an educational programme of any value in this region—first, because of the constantly changing personnel of the troops; second, because of the apathy shown at the start by many members of the army personnel; and thirdly, because of the lack of proper text books, school rooms and teachers.

There was, however, no question with regard to the craving of the men for mental improvement—there was daily growing stronger among the soldiers a mental unrest, which could only be satisfied by employment that would lead to self advancement both here and back home.

The establishment of an Educational System which would embrace the work of Grade, Grammar, High School and include Business and College courses as well, was the problem which the Educational Department undertook to solve. In late December there was secured from the Mayor of Le Mans the privilege of using the Ecole Pratique for evening classes. Women members of the Y. M. C. A. Educational Corps were in charge and the response to their efforts was astonishing and gratifying.

The "Y" was finding an eagerness on the part of the men to enter into studies of all kinds. The school expanded rapidly until it became the Army Post and Divisional School, with a faculty of 15 teachers, and offering courses in 25 subjects, which included Arithmetic, Algebra, Trigonometry, Accounting, French, Spanish, Shorthand and Typewriting and Business Correspondence, Theory, (Music,) Harmony. (Music,) Public Speaking and Journalism—and there were even calls for classes in Economics and Law which, fortunately the "Y" was able to meet.

But it was soon discovered that there was a branch of educational work for which there was an unusual demand and which the "Y" had not as yet touched. Ernest Coxhead announced the establishment of a School of Architecture at Le Mans on December 10, 1918. Registration was purely voluntary and the school opened on January 6, 1919 with a class of twenty men who reported on detached service from their respective organizations by special orders from Divisional Headquarters.

The rooms in which these classes were held were located in the Municipal Ecole de Dessin placed at the disposal of the school through the Mayor of Le Mans.

One more phase of the educational challenge had been met by the "Y" but the promoters of the Architectural Branch were not satisfied to

confine their efforts to a class room in a land so full of opportunity for first hand study of all types of architectural interest such as Chartres, Chateau du Loir and Paris. Trips were made to those points which served a double purpose—a means of gaining knowledge and a pleasant change from the monotonous grind of soldier life.

With the opening of Spring, the thoughts of many men turned to agriculture. The question "What are you going to do to help us make up our lost time?" was continually being put to the educational "Y" secretaries by hundreds of American doughboys recruited from the soil. To meet it there was organized in the Le Mans area a School of Agriculture. Practically all the men in the 91st Division then located in the area were reached. Classes were held, lectures given, and as the movement grew, a successful series of Farmers' Institutes was conducted in the large camps about Le Mans, which was attended by about 8,000 men. Ten clubs in agriculture were formed and Army reports show that by these drives, 15,000 men were reached; 500 men were enrolled in Farmers' Clubs, and at least 500 men taken to visit the noted French farms in the Department of Sarthe.

No service which the Y. M. C. A. secretaries have rendered to the A. E. F. in France has apparently been more worth while than this agricultural movement. In view of the action taken by our government to furnish a way for these returning soldier boys to take up farm lands, the Y. M. C. A. can feel justly proud of the part it played in stimulating their interest and desire to take advantage of the opportunities offered.

The Army personnel was gradually won over to full coöperation and it is certain that without their loyal support much of the force of this work would have been ineffective. In the early part of the game, the Army mimeographs were used to manufacture text-books, and tar paper and asbestos sheets served as black-boards; tents were used as school rooms where college-bred buck privates directed classes in trigonometry or taught illiterate soldiers to write their letters home.

But the time came when the A. E. F. was free to take over the control and responsibility from the Y. M. C. A. for the work of the Army Educational Commission. In this connection it is well to remember that the "Y" undertook the responsibility of establishing an Educational system for the A. E. F., at a period when the Army itself had to dedicate its entire personnel and resources to the winning of the war. How well the Army considered that the "Y" had performed its task may be judged by the fact that when the Army Educational



Corps was established to relieve the "Y" of the educational responsibility, an urgent invitation was extended to the entire "Y" educational personnel to become members of this organization. And although each member of the educational staff originally enlisted in the Y. M. C. A., so eager were they to continue their service to the American soldiers that practically all became members of the Army Educational Corps.

To supplement the strictly educational work in class and club, the Paris "Y" Headquarters sent forth a number of historical and popular lectures. In the last days of February, the urgent needs of this area were brought to the attention of the Y. M. C. A. Lecture Service Bureau and the best men available were sent into the field. During the six weeks from March 1 to April 15, about 500 lectures were given on all subjects from strawberry culture to potato bugs, and practically all the occupied points in the area were reached.

This article must not close without special mention of what was perhaps the smallest branch of the "Y" educational programme, but one with far-reaching results. On March 1, the distribution of magazines and periodicals was placed under the direction of the "Y" Educational Department. Immediate results followed, truck loads of the latest American and British magazines came into the area weekly, and through the establishment of a daily newspaper and magazine route were distributed into the hands of the doughboys. Bare tables in "Y" huts became thickly covered with magazines in their colorful bindings, but they did not stay long, for boys so long starved for this sort of reading, read them from cover to cover. Between 6,000 to 10,000 copies of the Paris editions of the *New York Herald*, the *Chicago Tribune* and the *London Daily Mail* were distributed to the soldiers within two hours after their arrival from Paris.

The educational challenge made by the American doughboys to the "Y" was successfully met. The value of the work done by this department will never be completely known, for it will reach into future generations. Hundreds upon hundreds of men who in normal circumstances had never had either opportunity or desire for educational advantages, learned to appreciate their value, and were roused to a willingness to earn these privileges. This is one feature of the Y. M. C. A. overseas service that will bear fruit beyond the reach of statistical compilation, and which will return again and again to strengthen the organization.

## NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE SERVICE

Newspapers	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Total
New York Herald ..	25,000	35,000	50,000	75,000	155,000	105,000	385,000
Chicago Tribune ...	15,000	18,000	25,000	37,500	77,500	58,000	198,000
Daily Mail .....	15,000	18,000	25,000	37,500	77,500	58,000	198,000

These papers are distributed free.

In addition to these the "Stars and Stripes," "Embarkation News" and "The Forwarder" have been for sale at all "Y" stations.

## MAGAZINES

Total distributed of the following list:

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Total
3,000	3,000	22,000	32,500	20,000	15,000	95,500
SATURDAY EVENING POST			LITERARY DIGEST			
COLLIERS			EVERYBODY'S			
WORLD'S WORK			POPULAR SCIENCE			
McCLURE'S			ATLANTIC MONTHLY			
COSMOPOLITAN			MUNSEY			
ALL STORY			SNAPPY STORIES			
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC			LONDON ILLUSTRATED NEWS			
GRAPHIC			ASSOCIATION MONTHLY			
PUCK			JUDGE			
LIFE			SUNSET			
SYSTEM			RED BOOK			
GREEN BOOK			AMERICAN			
ILLUSTRATION			SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN			
THE OUTLOOK			REVIEW OF REVIEWS			
THE TIMES			THE BYSTANDER			
BUSINESS DIGEST			ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL			
PHOTO PLAY			LESLIE'S			
POPULAR MECHANICS						

## EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS

	January	February	March	April	May	Total
Books Circulated .	325,762	360,870	418,320	308,760	287,590	1,701,302
Ed'etnal Lectures.	150	150	160	125	152	737
Attendance .....	56,000	35,000	40,000	36,000	45,000	213,000
Agricultural .....			10)			
Institute .....			)			
Farmers' Club ....			500)			
Members Reached.			15,000)			
Visits, Stock Farms			500)			
Travel Courses ...		1,080	1,080	1,080	1,080	4,320
Walking Attend. .		720	720	720	720	2,880
Buildings .....	35	95	99	(After April 15—Educational Dept. conducted by Army)		
Teachers .....	92	229	277			
Different Studies.	28	87	104	102		
Combined Days in Session .....	94	142	152	112		
Students on Roll.	1,556	7,407	11,060	3,491		
Combined Attend.	131,638	946,515	1,413,008	353,464		

## RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT

## PERSONNEL

ARTHUR D. HILTON.....	<i>Area Secretary</i>
R. D. ACHESON.....	<i>Associate Area Secretary</i>
STEPHEN K. NEWHALL.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
A. C. GILMORE.....	<i>Religious Literature Secretary</i>
C. C. GLEASON.....	<i>Mass Singing</i>
M. P. McCLURE.....	<i>Economy Area</i>
J. F. D. HOUCK.....	<i>La Suze Area</i>
H. N. RONALD.....	<i>Belgian Camp</i>
C. I. RAMSEY.....	<i>Classification Camp</i>
D. E. KELLEY.....	<i>Forwarding Camp</i>
R. M. HOOD.....	<i>Spur Camp</i>
MISS ELEANOR FLANSBÜRG.....	<i>"YD Hut"</i>
PAUL TURNER.....	<i>Central Hut</i>
WM. LATTIMORE.....	<i>Overhaul Camp</i>



TO BRING to the men of the army, so far as the peculiar circumstances and conditions would allow, the moral and spiritual influences that normally surround them at home was the aim of the Religious Department of the Y. M. C. A. in the Le Mans area. That the "Y" put over the programme successfully is evidenced when it is noted that from January to June 15, 1919, a grand total of 3404 religious meetings were held with an attendance of 577,497; war roll decisions numbered 1545 and three hundred and four Bible classes were held, with an attendance of more than 4700 men.

The department gave every assistance and hearty coöperation to Army Chaplains, who were the authorized religious leaders in the Le Mans Region. In one instance, a whole battalion of men was served by a secretary from the Department at the request of the Chaplain in charge of the religious work of the regiment. In another instance, two Chaplains were ordered to another Division and the "Y" was requested to care for their work. Substitutes for Chaplains, when on their vacations, and in sudden emergencies, such as sickness, were provided. In one hut 700 copies of literature were placed on tables and 24 hours later over two-thirds of it had been taken away.

The "Y" placed at the disposal of each Army Chaplain a library of 20 volumes, which was highly appreciated. In addition, the whole of the religious literature of the department was at all times accessible

to Chaplains, as well as to the men. The service was not limited by denominational bias. Jewish, Roman Catholic, Christian Science as well as Protestant Denominations were furnished space in "Y" huts and other centers of activity, and song books, music, communion services and other supplies were placed at their disposal.

This department had as its goal the holding of, at least, two religious services each week in every place in the area where personnel and equipment allowed. One service was planned for Sunday and one on some night during the week.

It was believed that the men would welcome a service definitely announced as "Religious" and it was insisted that no subterfuge be used to entice the men to these services. Good music was secured when possible, vital Christian hymns sung and the message was of a definitely religious nature. The meetings were advertised without camouflage. At one service when the speaker had mistakenly used the occasion as an opportunity for telling some laughable stories, one of the young men expressed his disappointment because he had come with the expressed purpose of attending a religious service.

In several cases where the advisability of holding such services was questioned, the matter was put to the men as to whether they desired an entertainment or a religious service and ninety per cent voted for the latter.

In one place, permission was reluctantly given for one man to speak, but when the service was over he was invited to return and the men in the camp petitioned the officer in charge to see that he be returned for the second address. Many speakers averaged as large audiences as did the entertainers.

#### BIBLE CLASSES

ONE of the most worth-while services of the Religious Department was the organization of Bible Study Classes. In spite of the difficulty of a shifting population, many of these classes were organized, in most cases with leaders from among the men themselves.

A large number of camps were also conducting Sunday Schools with the secretaries as teachers. In one camp a class of Jewish men was taught from the Old Testament by a "Y" secretary.

#### HOSPITAL WORK

AT HOSPITAL No. 52, the department conducted a successful work for some time. On one Sunday, over 800 men promised to write letters home because of the urgent suggestion of the "Y" secretary.



One day a young officer, who had had a number of Chinese soldiers under him in France, came to a "Y" secretary to find out how he might prepare himself to go to China as a missionary. Similar incidents have been frequent in the experience of the workers.

#### SPECIAL LINES OF ACTIVITY

THE coöperation of the Activities Department of the Army and the Entertainment Department of the Y. M. C. A., made it possible for more than 200 services, attended by 27,000 men, to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Easter week. A large number of special speakers and singers were provided and many men for the first time since they left home partook of the Lord's Supper. A uniform service was used. The total number of men partaking of communion was 4,124.

Many men were confronted during the last weeks with problems concerning their moral lives and of the thousands of personal interviews of Y. M. C. A. secretaries, none were reported in any way, yet they formed a large part of the service rendered to the men, which is a contribution that is really worth mentioning.

Many inquiries came from America concerning men in this area and for some time one man from the department looked up men asked for, and got them in touch once more with the folks at home. Letters of appreciation from the people in America concerning this phase of the work were gratifying.

The general program for the dedication of 20 huts in this area March 30 was a thing for which the department may be especially proud.

Another feature of this department was to arrange for the presence of a group of Y. M. C. A. secretaries at all of American soldiers' funerals at Le Mans cemetery.

Mothers' Day was an outstanding success with special meetings, afternoon parties, flower tokens in remembrance of mother and souvenir postals by the thousands for the mothers of boys everywhere.

One religious secretary in the La Suze area makes the following significant report of his experiences: "About 40,000 troops of the S. O. S. were sent out into 40 towns for billeting without entertainment, without reading matter, without lights, without tobacco or candies, or almost anything that men wanted. At this time a large supply of army song books came within my reach and as transportation was available, I drove into these villages for a week, called the men around me, gave them song books—we all sang popular, patriotic and religious songs—and then I preached a short, plain, pointed sermon, closing with prayer."

"It was no uncommon thing for 75 per cent of the men to ask for prayer—sometimes as high as 95 per cent. I then gave the song books away—reading matter, if I had it—writing paper and envelopes, and pulled into another town (repeating the process). I made as high as three towns after supper and four and five in a day. At one camp, we got in at 9:30 p. m., and before we could put on a service, taps were blown. The Colonel told us to take all the time we wanted—and three or four hundred stood listening attentively. At one town soldiers were asking for cigarettes to be sent and one young man came up and said: "Come back and preach to us; we need preaching worse than we do cigarettes." At the end of a week a folding organ and a good man to play it was added—and the work was made easy. I counted it the most religious opportunity of my lifetime. This was all open-air work—right in the street in the center of towns."

#### RELIGIOUS WORK DEPARTMENT

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
Regular Service.....	250	637	1,098	624	650	470
Itinerant Service.....	10	22	20	15	22	....
Attendance .....	40,000	135,665	225,468	78,642	65,000	60,000
Bible Study Class.....	....	57	156	99	85	24
Attendance .....	....	4,070	7,201	5,091	4,063	1,832
Literature Circulation.....	....	85,941	272,587	81,333	92,000	64,240
Bibles Distributed.....	9,000	9,000	9,645	9,500	9,400	1,600
Features—						
Easter .....					200 Services	
					27,000 in Attendance	
Mothers' Day.....					70 Services	
					15,000 in Attendance	
War Roll Decisions Signed.....						440
Other Decisions Signed.....						64
Personal Religious Interviews.....						425

#### MASS SINGING

##### WORK ORGANIZED MARCH 20, 1919

	March	April	May	June
Number of books (small).....	....	15,000	25,000	60,000
Number of books (large).....	50	100	200	50
Number of Song Music.....	....	500	1,000	300
Number of Sing Songs.....	30	180	180	60
Number of Men Reached.....	19,000	46,000	45,000	75,000
Leaders .....	4	3	5	6
Accompanists .....	4	2	4	4
Voluntary Leaders (Soloists and Accompanists) .....	....	4	4	....

## WOMEN'S BUREAU

## PERSONNEL AS OF JUNE 1

MRS. MAUD MACDOWELL KOYLE.....	<i>Regional Directress</i>
MISS MILDRED P. ROGERS.....	<i>Asst. Regional Directress</i>
MISS LUCILLE COUCH.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
MISS EDITH ROBERTS.....	<i>Manager of Dancing</i>

## DISTRIBUTION

Le Mans (Regional).....	44
Le Mans (Depot Division).....	110
Northeast Area .....	10
Northwest Area.....	13
Southwest Area.....	23
Southeast Area.....	19
Rolling Canteen.....	36
Entertainers .....	74
Total.....	329



BEFORE the days of the A. E. F. the Y. M. C. A. was considered strictly a men's organization, and it can be easily understood why, back in the States, there had been no vital need for women's coöperation. Overseas service proved to be, however, an entirely different matter. The "Y" was not long in realizing the vital necessity of injecting into the service in France the atmosphere which only women can create, and invited them open-heartedly to join them. To the fact that they *did* come into this organization with all the enthusiasm and desire for service to their brothers so characteristic of their sex, is due fully one-half of the wonderful success of the welfare work which the Y. M. C. A. put before the A. E. F. in the Le Mans Region.

The story of the Women's Department from date of origin in December of 1918 to its close in July, 1919, is intensely interesting. December of 1918 found 18 representatives of the fairer sex scattered over the huge Le Mans Region. It was at this time that the Paris office sent a Regional Directress to Le Mans in an effort to organize the work of these women and see what could be done to help lighten the burden of our fighting force. Many of those who will read this can picture what December meant—mud to the ankles, rain and sleet daily and nightly; cold, biting winds; transportation over the area

meant riding on trucks—and even the stalwart buddies were ready to sleep of nights after a day's ride in those huge motor caravans that bumped and jostled their way through the mud and ice of France's battered highways. At that time 75,000 men were quartered at the Forwarding and Class Camps. Conditions were at their very worst—men standing up day and night—or sleeping in pup tents wallowing in mud; and more men were coming in every day to share their fate. These were some of the difficulties under which the work of the Women's Department was inaugurated.

The spirit with which this new work was undertaken can best be shown by the simple statement that the American and French soldiers stationed in the Le Mans Area had a Christmas celebration which began at 3 o'clock December 24 and ended at 9 p. m., December 25. During this time there were served 60,000 cups of chocolate, 60,000 packages of cakes and 10,000 packages of cigarettes, free of charge. There was a wonderful tree in the Place de Republique square; motion pictures in the open air, and a band concert—and despite the rain which fell almost continuously, the Y. M. C. A. brought Christmas cheer and much comfort to the tired and homesick lads whom the fortunes of war had brought so far from home.

The closing of the Le Mans Area found 329 women personnel on duty. These women were active in every branch of work conducted by the men, besides which there were special workers. These activities included canteen experts, hut secretaries, area activities leader, dancing manager, visitor of the sick, club hostesses, song leader, entertainers, office manager, stenographers, sight-seeing guides, etc.

The "YD" Hut in Le Mans was run entirely by women. On this staff there were a social leader, experienced woman accountant, athletic and dramatic promoters, information clerk, religious leader and canteen workers. Women did religious work, athletic, educational, financial management, library, canteen, entertainment, shopping with the men, driving cars, etc. For the colored troops there were two splendid colored "Y" women. Some of the women secretaries had classes in spelling, reading and writing before the school program was introduced. Indeed the work was so varied to meet the demands that it is difficult to tell more than a few instances to show how emergencies were met, and comfort and pleasure given.

There was a certain Y. M. C. A. man secretary in the Le Mans region who will never cease being grateful to the "Y" women who made the opening of the Masonic Club a success. The Masons arranged



to take over an old French home, formerly belonging to the Mayor of Lille, situated near Y. M. C. A. Headquarters, and turned it into a club house for both enlisted men and officers who were entitled to wear the emblem. The idea of service was a splendid one—the house was well fitted up, the location ideal, but when the opening was planned, the men in charge suddenly discovered that something vitally necessary was lacking. It was the “Y” girls who supplied the deficiency. A detail of these women took the club rooms in charge, planned and executed the decorations, arranged for the refreshments and turned the high, gloomy rooms with their dignified and “mannish” fittings, into a charming home with a truly American atmosphere. No one who was present at this opening night will soon forget it. There was a punch bowl in the hall, served by “Y” girls in their pretty canteen uniforms; coffee, cocoa, sandwiches and cake were dispensed by more of these smiling women in blue; they danced to the music of the orchestra and band and talked and visited with the men—turning what had threatened to be a cold, formal party into one of the most charming and pleasant events in old Le Mans.

The Classification Camp, situated at the outskirts of Le Mans, gave a County Fair and Athletic Meet which held sway for three days, opening on Memorial Day. Thousands of men witnessed the events and Le Mans was overrun with khaki-clad boys brought in from all over the area, who were crowded into tent quarters pitched on the Class Camp Athletic Field, and others around the city. The welfare work which the “Y” women did in connection with these two meets is deserving of special mention. In addition to the huge “Y” hut, which was operated entirely by women, the “Y” maintained a welfare tent in “Welfare Row.” Here for three days the women held court and dispensed welfare of all kinds to row upon row of boys as they filed through the tent. There was ice cream in cones—the delicious kind that the folks back home buy at the corner drugstore; there were doughnuts, powdered with sugar, and punch or “red lemonade,” which went trickling down the throat in an ice-cold stream. There were packages of cakes and even hot chocolate for those who wanted it, but June had crept upon the country-side and brought a hot sun which somehow or other made hot drinks unpopular. During the three days, 34 girls were on duty in this welfare tent and dispensed welfare to 30,000 men.

It would appear that their share in the celebration had been big enough, but the most interesting feature has not been told. When this

County Fair and Race Meet was planned, the Army proposed to hold special equestrian events for the ladies if sufficient contestants could be found among the women personnel of the various Welfare organizations. It was discovered that there were many "Y" women who had had considerable experience in this sport, and ten girls in gray and blue uniform entered their names to compete with their sisters from the Red Cross and the Jewish Welfare Board. It was a pretty sight—and to the spectators so used to contestants clad in the inevitable khaki, an especially pleasing one. The closing day of the meet found the "Y" girls winners in all events, *i. e.*

Egg and Spoon Race—Miss Helen Estee of Buffalo, N. Y., winner; Red Cross contestants taking second and third places, respectively.

Ladies' Mounts—Mrs. Gertrude Gilmour of New York City, winner; Miss Helen Pedrick of Philadelphia, second honors.

Needle and Thread Race—Miss Jane L. Rowson of Patterson, N. J., won first honors.

Space will not permit a complete account of the wonderful service of the Women's Department. One of the most vital services it performed—the extensive dancing programme—has been judged so important as to deserve a special write-up in itself. Women successfully operated "Y" huts, attending to every branch of the work without the aid of men. Early in the records of the area, the Y. M. C. A. operated an all-night service canteen at the station, the night service being covered by two "Y" women. This building was later turned over to the Red Cross and was operated by them until the closing of the area. Later such a station canteen was in most successful operation at Rennes, the midpoint between Le Mans and Brest. Twenty "Y" girls helped serve chocolate and coffee for two days at a Franco-American fete; twenty-five girls reported between the hours of 5 and 8 p. m. at a K. of C. Carnival for six days and made possible the enjoyment of the dancing programme by the doughboys—all in addition to their regular duties which could not be allowed to suffer. In this connection, a word of praise must be said for the twenty-five odd business women who reported in the offices of the Le Mans "Y" headquarters from 9 to 5, and then made it their business to dance or do welfare work of some sort until the late hours of the night.


The romance of the rolling canteen could never have been made possible but for the forty "Y" girls who have served it so faithfully and well. Their canteens touch two and possibly three points per day where there were no "Y" huts, and reached an average of 500 men at

each point. Free chocolate and doughnuts or cookies were distributed. Two "Y" girls served 27,000 soldiers in one of the areas during the month of March—making doughnuts in the forenoon and going out in the afternoon and evening and distributing them. The immense amount of labor devolved upon the women who undertook this canteen work and which they carried through so successfully, cannot be over-estimated.

The Y. M. C. A. opened a Girls' Club in March at 92 rue de Flore, primarily for the housing of the "Y" secretaries. This club was entirely managed by women, in charge of a charming hostess, and was a very attractive home-like place. An estimate of the extent of service rendered may be gained from one of the weekly reports which show 84 girls accommodated with sleeping quarters with 236 meals served to them.

Against heavy odds, the "Y" girl has proven that there is no field of welfare work undertaken by the largest welfare organization in the world which she cannot enter and "carry on" successfully. She merits all praise which can be given her for the manner in which she handled a situation never before paralleled in the history of the world.

### ICE CREAM FACTORY

HE manufacture of real American ice cream by the Y. M. C. A. in the Le Mans area commenced early in June. A modern plant was installed in the Cafeteria Building which was run by electric power supplied by the Army. This plant had a capacity of 1000 gallons of cream daily, but owing to the inability to secure ice, but a half of this was actually manufactured, in any one day.

For the week ending June 23, the following ingredients were used in the manufacture of 1727 gallons: 5260 cans of milk, 215 pounds of starch, 172 bottles of vanilla, 1375 pounds of sugar, 19,000 kilos of ice and four tons of salt.

Ice cream was supplied to 33 separate places in the area during that one week. Thousands of doughboys were served from the rolling canteens or welfare huts in the area, until the area closed.

## THE STORY OF ONE CANTEEN WORKER

*By HERSELF*

IF EVERY woman who has worked in a canteen in France would write her story and those stories could be collected into a volume, the value and interest of such a book in the years to come could scarcely be overestimated. Since the dawn of history, there is no page or line which suggests that women have ever accompanied combatant forces into their camps in such a relationship as the Y. M. C. A. and J. W. B. women have accompanied their American soldiers into the very heart of military camps on a foreign battlefield. Somebody has said that the idea of sending women workers to France for canteen service was a stroke of genius; there were those who said that it was foolhardy, unwise and contrary to the laws of nature, and all the world has watched with inquiring eye for the outcome. A volume made up of the individual stories of the "Y" girls themselves, told in the simple, straightforward, girlish language such as might be found in their own diaries, would forever settle all inquiries. These girls were chosen from the young womanhood of America for such qualities as health, education, culture, ingenuity, good spirits and willingness to serve. The soldiers themselves have dubbed them "good scouts" and "good sports," and the buddies quickly fall into calling a real "Y" girl, "Sis." A veteran French colonel of the war of 1870 once eyed a "Y" girl who was billeted in his room, rather askance, then he said pointedly: "I have been a soldier a long time, but I never have had any women friends in the Army like you;" and the next day the old colonel was invited by the "Y" girl to go with her to the station from which the troops with whom she had been serving for four months were entraining for home. It was noticed that he studied the situation carefully, and at the last, when the long line of box cars loaded with the "59" Hommes" per was pulling out, and the grinning Yanks were crowded in the doorway of every car to call a last word to "Sis" while the train gathered speed with every revolution of the wheels, the old man was seen to nod his head as if some comprehension of the new meaning of the word "soldier" as it will be written in American history henceforth, was beginning to enter his mind.

The girl who came to France with the A. E. F. knows that to her has fallen one of the richest experiences that has ever come to women of any age of the world's history. She has seen the men of her land under the most trying temptations to which men can be subjected, and



she knows better than any other women on earth that the gold in the American soldier's heart is just as pure as his steel on the battle line was sure. She has seen the doughboy, who has been systematically toughened for war for three years, pulled out of the lines where he had fought like a laughing demon, and sent to some miserable, muddy, winter quarter there to await months of slow dragging away of poisonous days whose only advent were morning, noon and night, the cognac joint, the crap games, and the loose women of the village; she saw those men honestly try to entertain themselves with the pitiful available resources which the Y. M. C. A. was able to get in, bit at a time; she knew the heartaches of the tragedies that happened in the far-away homeland that was growing almost like a dream to them, and how they kept their nerve through it all; and she knew that her coming into their midst was the greatest event of their whole stay in France! She was the reminder of home, and mother, and the women whom they loved and fought for, and had seen their buddies die for! Never was a golden-haired baby toddler guarded more carefully than was the regiment's most prized possession—its "Y" girl; never was a mother more honored than through those American sons' respect for their "Y" girl; never was a sister more beloved and teased and confided in than was the "Sis" at the Y. M. C. A. canteen. And there isn't a "Y" girl who came to France who wouldn't like to write across the skies of America, "Mothers of our Nation, proud indeed you may be of your sons. They proved themselves heroes in the trenches, and we "Y" girls know that they proved themselves just as great heroes behind the lines. If the gas and shell of the Hun was frightful to life, so were the temptations of wine, women and song, the environments of a foreign land, the loneliness, the feeling of being forgotten, the monotony of being tied under military weights, deadly to the soul. Henceforth the meaning of the word "soldier" must be changed in the vocabulary of history. Your American son is as proud of being clean of life and limb as of being brave and strong in battle, and his criterion demands the same record of a comrade to whom he would accord the term of "a good soldier." He carries in his heart a shrine so sacred that military hardening and the horrors of war and the temptations of a foreign land can only make him long the more for home—*You!* All of these things he has revealed in his wholesome, cordial, adoring treatment of us—the women of the A. E. F. So long as the mothers of America are like you, our nation will never know the downfall of a Sodom, nor a Rome, nor a Berlin!"

Just as each canteen worker in France humbly feels that all the impoverishings of the lives of the men whom she served while they were fighting the bitter battle of Waiting to Go Home, were poured into the enriching of her own soul, so does she also know that there are hundreds and thousands of American girls who would have eagerly grasped her opportunity to be of service to our soldiers in the great crisis. She realizes that she is blessed above mortals in her experience, and that she is many times a better and broader woman for having come to France with the A. E. F.—an everlasting tribute to the manhood and womanhood of America!

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The following is the simple, true story of a canteen worker, Miss Louise Clarke. If all the stories of all the canteen workers could be told, they would be, paradoxically, all alike and all different, since each girl was thrown on her own resources to meet her own situation, to brace her own nerve, to be her own guiding star; for there were weeks at a time when the "Y" girl did not see another of her kind:

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On the 19th of January, 1919, one lone "Y" girl was bundled on a "Y" camionette, whisked over country roads, and deposited at the little village of Ige' Orne. Previously she had been ushered into the inner sanctum of the "Y" district headquarters at La Ferte'-Bernard, where a man of business-like brevity of speech had pointed to a small map upon the wall. "You see this dot here. That is the village of Ige', where the 347th Machine Gun Battalion of the 91st Division is located. No "Y" secretary is stationed there—man or woman. They have no Y. M. C. A. Go out and start one." And with inner tremblings, this being her first assignment in France, the "Y" girl went out to "start one."

She arrived at Ige' to find that she had not been expected so soon. However, while one nice captain entertained her by a little grate fire in a two by four room containing one or two bare tables, a couple of spluttering candles, and a rickety chair or two, another captain departed in quest of lodgings. The major was absent; she was quartered in his room with promise of permanent accommodations the next day.

The morning afterward, as she came out of her room, she said good morning to a couple of boys who were "policing up" the street. They stopped and stared in amazement. "Parlez-vous Americain?" said one of them. "Je suis Americaine," was the answer. The astonishment of these men was typical of the attitude of the whole battalion. The majority of the men had not seen or talked to an American woman for months. Some weeks later one of the boys said: "Did it seem to you

that we held a little aloof at first, and were a bit slow to get acquainted? We hadn't talked to a woman who spoke the English language for so long, that we were afraid of what we might say—I don't know whether you have noticed it or not, but many a time I have seen a fellow stop in the midst of what he was saying, and clap his hand over his mouth just in time. We fellows get pretty rough when we are alone with each other and it doesn't matter how we talk to the French, because they don't understand what we say."

The "Y" canteen was started in a small, dark room in a vacant French house—one window, stone floor, smoky fireplace, horrible red and green wall paper and great patches of bare plaster where the paper was no more, two long narrow tables against the wall, and three benches that looked to be veterans of all the wars since the creation of man. In one corner by the window was the canteen counter, where all manner of things were sold, from shaving soap to sweet chocolate. One came to be an authority on the many brands of "chewin," and happy was the day when there was a sufficient supply of Camels to sell them by the "*cartoon!*"

There were many funny experiences that came to the saleswoman in that little "Y" canteen. One day a doughboy came in quest of a toothbrush. With sorrow of soul, the "Y" girl informed him that they were all sold. "Aw, well, Miss, it don't matter much, I never use one myself, but we have to have 'em for inspection. Guess I kin borrow one off of my bunkie."

During those cold winter days the little canteen was jammed with men. At first there was no reading matter whatever, but after a week or two a blessed sackful of magazines arrived—and then men sat on the benches and read; men leaned on the counter and read; men even stood in the middle of the floor and read. Oftentimes a man stood in one spot for an hour at a time—because there was no place to sit down, because he wanted to read, because the "Y" was the only place in the little village where he could keep even reasonably warm. One night two of the three dilapidated benches rebelled, and refused longer to serve as support for the human frame. The next day the carpenter mended benches while the men sat on tables. The day afterward the carpenter mended tables while the men sat on the rejuvenated benches.

Bit by bit conditions improved—curtains went up; magazine pictures were tacked on the walls; the Chaplain secured books for the war library, and scouted the neighboring villages for a piano; the "Y" sent out more benches and tables and a couple of stoves, which made pos-

sible the opening up of a tiny back room and a little room upstairs, which relieved the congestion somewhat. The "Y" also sent out games and a grafonola. From the time of its arrival until its inner workings collapsed, the grafonola was never silent. Often it and the piano entered into a contest to see which could drown out the other. The resulting din was tremendous, but the manipulator of each instrument seemed to be enjoying himself too much to admit of any remonstrance.

A little way down the road a big Army tent had been set up, with a crude stage at one end, and straw on the ground, and this was the theatre of Ige'. Sometimes once, sometimes twice, sometimes three times a week the "Y" sent out entertainments which held forth in the tent. On nights when there was no entertainment, the little canteen was crowded, and the "Y" girl sat on the counter swinging her feet and playing her mandolin, or "pounded the ivories" all evening long, while the men sang; and oh! how they did sing! It is something never to be forgotten. Often impromptu programmes took place, where special stars of the battalion happened to drop in—clog dancers and soloists and "sick-like."

And sometimes the "Y" girl just talked. Someone said once that it must take a person of unusual conversational talent to be able to entertain so many men. It is quite the contrary. When one is the only American woman within some miles to whom 800 men can talk, all one has to do to make a success of it is to smile and to listen—the men will talk.

The canteen piano was a long-suffering instrument. On cold winter evenings it took many a walk down the road to the entertainment tent on the shoulders of strong soldier boys. Sometimes it traveled a couple of kilos out into the country to the chateau where Company A was stationed. On one of these excursions it collided with the lamp that hung from the center of the wall and was drenched with coal oil. But still it played on. It seemed to have grasped the idea that it must do its best for the boys, and to have resolved to defy anything which threatened to destroy its usefulness. Of course Ige' was on the kerosene and candle circuit. It boasted some 200 inhabitants.

There are numerous unique experiences that come to a girl in a French village of that size. One day a lieutenant was telling with glee of the genius of his orderly—how the latter had discovered a half a hogshead of generous proportions, how on certain nights he deposited said hogshead before a roaring grate-fire in the Lieutenant's room, how



he brought a marvelous supply of hot water and how the Lieutenant enjoyed the luxury of a real bath! The "Y" girl expressed extreme envy, and spoke in terms of contempt of the little saucepan in which she heated hot water in the fireplace. The next day the following note was handed to her—"Private—proprietor of the local swimming tank, says that if you wish, he will bring the same to your billet on any night you may name, accompanied by beaucoup hot water." The offer was accepted with alacrity and the hogshead arrived. A few minutes afterward, the orderly and one of the guards on duty that night appeared, bearing a great G. I. can full of hot water; and with beatific smiles the happy recipient of all these favors splashed about in front of the fireplace.

If it had not been for the wonderful coöperation on the part of the officers and men of the battalion, the work of the "Y" secretary would have been very strenuous. She was certainly a jack-of-all-trades—general canteen manager, bookkeeper, saleswoman, maker of curtains, sewer-on of everything from buttons to service stripes, performer upon the piano at all hours of the day or night, teacher of the French class in the Army school, and even substitute for the Chaplain one Sunday evening when he was away. But the coöperation was wonderful! A permanent detail of one sergeant and two privates attended to all the harder labor about the canteen, and relieved her behind the canteen counter. The boys at the mess-kitchens made chocolate when she wanted to give it away, and had no other means of serving it. The officers made her one of their family and procured for her everything which was within their power to procure.

And life, though lacking many things considered to be necessities at home, seemed very worth while. For the little "Y" canteen was the only competitor of the red-curtained cafe down the road. In all its crudeness it may have been a poor reminder, but it was a reminder, nevertheless, of home and all the things for which home stands.



## DANCING IN THE A. E. F.

FROM THE "Y" GIRL'S STANDPOINT

"Are you going to be busy tonight?"



HOW MANY times the girls in the Le Mans region have heard that question and known that it meant they were needed for a dance? Yes, the dancing fever struck the American doughboy hard. There was always one dance each night—usually four or five—and, as there was no dancing unit to meet the demand, the canteen workers and office force had to take upon themselves one more duty. With the coöperation of the Red Cross and Jewish Welfare Board, a regular schedule of dances was arranged for this region, giving the larger centers one dance a week with special dances for the smaller camps and towns.

The dances in Le Mans proper were always interesting, but it was the dances in the little towns that provided the variety. When the girls started from their canteens and offices for one of these, they never knew what kind of a place they were bound for. There was always the question of the right road, and the American pronunciation of the place where the dance was to be held did not make it easy to get directions from the French. And when the destination was finally reached, the girls were likely to find their hosts awaiting them in a barn, a French dance hall, a "Y" hut or even a fine old Chateau. The music, too, varied from a 40-piece band to a baby organ or accordeon—but while a few would frankly admit that they had never before been on a dance floor, the majority of the men proved to be excellent dancers. No girl expected a pair of shoes to last longer than one week without repairs, for the dance floor was always an uncertain quantity—perhaps cement, both smooth and rough, uphill and downhill, or planking so hurriedly put together that hopping over the cracks was in order, and one could fairly feel the leather wearing off the soles of one's shoes, while the hobnails played havoc with the uppers.

No one was ever so popular as the American girl at an enlisted man's dance in France. Her entrance into the dance hall was always the signal for appreciative applause, and the minute the music began she was surrounded with partners.

Did you ever dance a tag dance? They will never be forgotten by the girls in the A. E. F. The whistle blows—(and every boy seems to have a whistle)—there is a mad rush from the side wall, a struggle as

to who is to be the lucky man, and you whirl madly away with a new partner. Small wonder the boys have applied the term "shock troops" to these girls.

In the bigger halls, such as the huge auditorium at the Forwarding Camp, a strict system had to be followed to prevent the girls from being absolutely swamped, and only as many men as there were girls were allowed on the floor for each dance. Sometimes a system of colored ribbons was used, men who had been given red, white or blue ribbons dancing in turns—but outwitting the American doughboy is a difficult task and a glimpse into the pocket of many an innocent-faced lad who somehow seemed to dance too often, would reveal each color ready for instant use on demand. But no matter what system was followed, there were never enough girls and when the dance was over, they were always glad to pile into the car provided by the Army, waiting to take them back to their billets.

The Dance Bureau in the Regional Office expected a canteen worker to dance twice a week, once in her own hut and once at the request of the Bureau; but the office girls and "casuals" often had a record of six nights a week to meet the never-ending request for dancers. No Sunday dancing was permitted and the girls refused to attend dances where liquor was served.

In the ten weeks from its beginning on April 6 to June 14, the Bureau sent girls to 144 dances, 26 of which were for officers and 118 for enlisted men. The total number of girls provided for dancing during these weeks was 1364, and of these 1171 went to the enlisted mens' dances.

It was often difficult to fit the dances in with other work, and many personal sacrifices have been made to meet the demand—but no girl will ever regret the effort she made. She was always rewarded with the knowledge of unparalleled appreciation, and the oft repeated remark by the doughboy: "You don't know how glad I was to see you! For this is the first dance I have had with American girls since I came to France." These boys had been trained for two years to an active out-of-door life, and the dancing was an outlet to their exuberant spirits. To meet this demand by providing good music, well-lighted halls and American girls to join in American dances was a work well worth while.

## REPORT OF DANCES FROM APRIL 6 TO JUNE 14

Camps	Total No. Dances	No. Dances Enlisted Men	"Y" Girls	No. Dances Officers	"Y" Girls
Class. Camp.....	10	9	113	1	5
Hdqtrs. Troop, Le Mans	4	1	6	..	..
Forwarding Camp.....	10	10	159	..	..
Economy .....	..	5	27	..	4
Parigne l'Eveque.....	5	4	38	1	5
Hotel de Paris.....	2	2	37	..	..
Camp near Mayet.....	1	1	5	..	..
Franco-Amer. Meeting..	1	1	6	..	..
Yvre le Polin.....	1	1	8	..	..
J. W. B.—Le Mans.....	6	6	19	..	..
Mayet .....	1	1	5	..	..
Spur .....	8	7	78	1	5
Spur Picnic .....	..	1	30	..	..
Coucremont .....	1	1	3	..	..
Central Hut .....	7	7	36	..	..
K. of C.—Le Mans.....	5	5	31	..	..
K. of C. Carnival.....	5	5	80	..	..
Y. D. Hut.....	6	6	88	..	..
Le Grande Luce.....	1	1	5	..	..
Overhaul Park .....	8	4	55	4	31
Camp Etat .....	2	2	34	..	..
La Flesche .....	1	1	4	..	..
Masonic Club .....	1	1	12	..	..
Souligne .....	1	..	..	1	11
Hotel Dauphin .....	2	..	..	2	8
Yvre le Polin.....	1	..	..	1	12
Colombiers .....	1	..	..	1	9
Bourge le Roi.....	1	..	..	1	11
Masonic Club .....	3	..	..	3	26
Belgian Camp .....	5	3	15	2	42
Chateau du Loir.....	1	..	..	1	8
Ballon .....	1	..	..	1	4
Monce .....	1	..	..	1	4
Salvage Camp .....	2	1	14	1	4
Malicorne .....	1	1	6	..	..
Sable .....	1	1	6	..	..
Yvre l'Eveque.....	1	1	15	..	..
Sarge .....	1	1	9	..	..
Restaurant du Tuseulan	1	1	50	..	..
Totals .....	108	86	999	22	179

Total number of dances for enlisted men..... 86

Total number of dances for officers..... 22

Grand total..... 108

Prior to the date of this record dances were handled by local units without reports to Headquarters, and during February and March by a dancing unit of 16 girls as a "Flying Squadron," who put on a dance twice a day at different points throughout the area.





## ROLLING CANTEEN PERSONNEL

FRANK E. LUTES.....*Director*  
 HONORE McNAMARA.....*Assistant*

## THE ROLLERS

Dorothy Arnold	Sara McDonald
Mary Arthur	Gertrude Marvin
Anna Blanton	Eleanor Merritt
Grace Bouve	Clara Morris
Anne Bridgers	Olive Moss
Helen Mar Coates	Stella Nelson
Anna Cornich	Mary Paxton
Constance Crawford	Eileen Patterson
Mildred Eiler	Ruth Patrick
Catherine Faulkner	Alma Plumb
Amy Greene	Claudine Rodgers
Josephine Hammond	Eleanor Sheldon
Rachael Higgins	Elizabeth Simonton
Freddie Hilp	Sallie Simonton
Catherine Hopkins	Jane Singer
Mary Irwine	Mary Small
Winifred Jones	Natalie Turner
Sara Joyce King	Myrtle Weaver
Margaret Lincoln	Louise Wilcox
Ruth McClelland	

## THE ROMANCE OF THE ROLLING CANTEEN



PERFECT June sun shone down upon the countryside lying green and sparkling in its rays. The fields of clover were a wonderful wine color, through which was woven the scarlet of poppies and the blue of the corn-flowers, making a tapestry man could never imitate. In the cooling shade of the slim forest trees, so carefully pruned and cared for, the birds were chirping lazily in mild content, only the incessant whir-r-r-r and peck-peck-peck of the woodpecker urging the necessity of toil upon a sleepy world. To the right a grassy roadway through a lane of poplars led to a Chateau centuries old, still sturdy and strong, with a tiny artificial lake dotting the park like a spot of silver amid the green. Ahead on the main highway, a little, old village clustered at the edge of the cobbled pavement—old stone houses which had been built for generations leaning against one another for support, their red-tiled roofs a cheerful tone against the bright blue of the sky. An old, bent woman, gnarled and leathery of coun-

tenance, wearing a spotless white cap, dozing in the doorway to the village inn, was the only sign of human habitation.

A spiral of dust swirled to the horizon in the distance, while a dull thud-thud-thud came to the ear, the fall of thousands of feet growing louder and louder until it swelled into the steady tramp, tramp, tramp of marching men. The dust grew chokingly thick as it eddied around them, settling in layers upon heads and shoulders, powdering faces a dull grey and making grotesque layers on eyebrows and wrinkles, while the perspiration trickled down channels long since worn through the dirt. Fifteen thousand American soldiers in full marching order were wearily wending their way along the main road a few miles out of the historic city of Le Mans, from the big Forwarding Camp of the American Embarkation Center, to the La Suze Area, there to rest up a bit and prepare to entrain for the sailing port home. Fifteen long kilos had been covered, with as much more to go, tongues were thick with thirst and dust; bodies were tired and weary from the unaccustomed packs; feet were lumps of lead to the tired muscles forcing them step by step on their way, while spirits were at their lowest ebb—the sleepy, sunshiny countryside and the indifference of the few who turned to note them had become almost a torture—one more convincing evidence that there was no one who cared whether they ever got home or not—a state of mind which overwhelmed many a dough-boy during the weary wait for that passage home.

The cobbled village streets re-echoed to their step, a short rest from the blinding dust. Suddenly the boys in the front rank spied a blot of vivid blue at the edge of the village road—a blue that resolved itself into moving figures. One, more quick of comprehension than the rest, snapped his weary body to the right-about and called lustily to his comrades:

“Hey, you fellows! Straighten up—d’ yuh see what’s ahead? A whole flock o’ Bluebirds, and I hope to die if they ain’t got their canteen!”

An electric thrill ran along the entire line. There was much craning of necks, wiping of sweaty faces, and as if by magic broad grins of anticipated enjoyment went down the line. In the center of the road stood two Ford camionettes, far enough apart for two rows of dough-boys to pass between, while two more rows passed by the outer side of the trucks, permitting the service of four boys at a time without breaking ranks. Each camionette was painted the inevitable khaki, but bore in huge letters across front and sides the words, “Rolling Canteen, Y. M. C. A.”

It was not the signs which had identified the outfits, however; it was the blue-clad canteen girls, to whose ears had come word of this long, dusty hike, and who had hurried their cars with their cooling contents to a half-way spot, where they could help the boys over the road. As the line came on they were ready and waiting, and each man unhooked his tin cup, holding it up to the serving window to have it filled with deliciously cool milk shake while he helped himself with generous hand to the cookies heaped in a big box. What a treat!

"Gee!" came from the throat of one husky, broad-shouldered lad, as he threw back his head to let the liquid refreshment gurgle down; "Gee! I wuz about all in! This heat is sumpin fierce!"

"How'd you know we was comin' this way?" inquired another lad as he filed by—but the only answer was a smile and a flash of white teeth—Miss Canteen Girl was too busy to answer.

A slim southern boy, with dark eyes and a shy smile murmured. "You-all ah shu-nuff angels, Miss!" and received an extra full cup for his pains.

It was all over quickly. No time could be wasted—formation must not be broken—but officers were only too glad to allow the men to stop long enough for the drink that meant new life and better feeling for the rest of the hike. Soon they, too, last in line, received their share, expressed their hearty thanks and pressed on to overtake the toiling column. Miss Canteen Girl breathed a sigh from the very depths of her being, and climbed down from the stuffy camionette to stretch and rest. With her three sisters she watched the boys disappear in the dust, tried in vain to brush stain and dirt from what had been a spotless blue and white apron, then turned to the task of cleaning up and returning to headquarters for another load of good cheer for the bored and weary boys who were continually on the move. Here was a seemingly endless task, but it was a singularly gratifying one—work did not count, for there was plenty of it, hard and grinding—it was the deep feeling of "something accomplished, something done" that kept her smiling and earned for her the endearing name "Bluebird" among the boys. The engines came to sudden life under the hand of the soldier drivers—the Rolling Canteens whirled away. Once more the sleepy countryside settled peacefully at rest—the sun still shone on the old woman sleeping in the doorway to the village inn—the Americans had passed.

\* \* \* \*

The Rolling Canteen history is one of the romances of "Y" service in France—a romance as full of interest and heart throbs as any ever

penned. Starting in February, 1919, with two one-ton Ford trucks, it grew in the Le Mans Region to 26 one-ton trucks operated by a crew of one soldier driver and two "Y" Canteen girls each, in June, 1919. These trucks were equipped with a caterer's boiler and grate in which to heat water for the hot drinks; several containers for carrying chocolate mixtures; tanks, one or two with spigots for serving; a table; trays for holding cakes, and any other little supplies which helped to make the work lighter or the tables more attractive. According to season they served chocolate, lemonade, punch, ice cream, coffee, milk shakes, cookies, apples, doughnuts and cigarettes. Never were there more than enough Rolling Canteens in the field to answer the demand.

It was the duty and privilege of the "Bluebirds" to go where others could not. The entire area grew to be as familiar to them as their own home town. Scarcely an M. P. but recognized the Rolling Canteen Girls at a glance, for out of their peculiar work they developed an individuality of their own. It was not easy. It meant night service—sometimes weeks at a stretch with less than four hours' sleep out of the twenty-four, while thousands of U. S. boys were passing through the area on their way home. It meant long rides into the edge of the area, touching the small, isolated towns and carrying cheer to the small outfits quartered there, who never had the chance to meet American girls in the bigger places. It meant breakdowns coming and going, mending tires by the light of the moon, sleeping with clothes on, on the bench-like seats of the old trucks. It meant hurry calls across stretches of rough roads with "beaucoup" chocolate to be mixed, tons of water to be gotten, firewood to be brought in, and after all the effort a smiling face and word of fun to the doughboys who crowded around them. It meant the seizing of opportunities to help our boys keep the best side uppermost—with little but originality, food and the wide out of doors to do it with. Sometimes this meant borrowing a huge barn, trimming it with evergreens and candles, appealing to the band for music, and holding an impromptu dance on pay night. Or it might mean a jolly picnic by the bank of a pretty stream, cheering up the boys whose sailing orders had just been cancelled. But one thing it was sure to mean, and that was work.

The Rolling Canteen was quickly dubbed the S. O. S. of the Region by the "Y" Secretaries in the field. Calls were continually coming in to the Headquarters Office to send the Rolling Canteen to this and that point to cover emergency situations, which the regular "Y" force could not leave their stations to take care of. The Twenty-ninth Division arrived in the little town of Souligne days ahead of the Army



kitchens, but the Rolling Canteen girls were on the job and cooked mess for them until their own outfits caught up. Road battalions living on cold chow for two days at a stretch were taken care of by a Rolling Canteen which heard of their plight and came to their rescue with hot drinks, returning to care for them daily until the Army could make arrangements to do so. Truck trains were stopped on their long overland trips to the debarkation points and the drivers cheered with coffee and doughnuts, often served in the drizzling rain and cold. Troop trains were met at all hours of day and night and many a sleepy, chilled, half-sick soldier boy has been roused by a cheery "Here Buddie! Get this hot coffee into you quick—it will help warm you up a little." And awakened to find a smiling American girl offering a big, thick sandwich and patiently waiting for him to unhook his tin cup to pour out the liquid.

Perhaps this extract from a soldier's letter will help the reader to comprehend more clearly just what the Rolling Canteen service meant to these thousands of boys; the letter is headed "Homeward Bound," directed to the Y. M. C. A. Headquarters at Le Mans, and reads: "Yesterday my outfit was hiking to the westward bound train, a hike of twenty kilos through the worst dust I ever saw, and that is some dust because I was one of the men in Mexico in '16, and know what Chihuahua alkali is. Well, we had ruled off about twelve kilos when we ran into a bunch of "Y" girls dishing out ice cold orangeade in large quantities.

Say, that one cup of orangeade was like the nectar of the Gods, and only one more evidence of how the "Y" looks after the boys. From now on I'm for the "Y" strong. I don't know who those girls were, but we were on the road from the Belgium Camp, close to Change, and if you know the ladies thank them for me, for that drink came like the good Samaritan of Holy Writ."

Again, perhaps this little tale of service to the Seventh Division boys who detrained at Evron one chilly morning in May will help to picture the hard work which these girls fresh from their homes in America undertook by way of doing their bit. This is not a tale of any special heroism, just an incident in the day's work.

A certain Rolling Canteen had been advised that these Seventh Division boys would detrain some time during the night at Conlie and had prepared a service of hot chocolate and cakes for 1600 men. All was in readiness, the hot liquid bubbling in the containers, cakes piled ready for instant distribution, while the electric lights shone down upon



# ROLLING CANTEN IN ACTION

1. Entraining Service. 2. Making Doughnuts. 3. At Rifle Range. 4. Beyond Reach of All Other "Y's." 5. Kitchen at Connerre. 6. Ice Cream in Place de Republique. AMONG THE ALLIES

the girls wrapped in their capes awaiting the signal that meant the train was in sight. The hours dragged slowly along; sleep could not be thought of for any instant might bring the glad word that the boys were nearing Conlie and the fire had to be kept going. Trip after trip to the R. T. O. brought no message—it was always, “We haven’t any word where the train is, Miss, but we’ll let you know just as soon as we find out.” Did you back home in your comfortable chairs, ever picture your girls tramping up and down the platforms of these tiny stations in France, shivering and sleepy, waiting the chance to serve your boys equally tired and cold from their journey, cramped in the cold cars en route to the debarkation point? I wonder if you, as you read this, can see the romance of it all as they saw it, a long deserted platform, half shadow, half light; the shrill shrieking of the French whistles as their tiny locomotives scuttled to and fro; the office of the R. T. O. with the khaki-clad boys huddled over their desks or sound asleep curled up on the hard cots; the instinctive seeking for companionship during those long night watches as the boys sought the girls to talk to them and tell them all those things which the American boy takes to his mother and sister at home. It was a service that repaid the servers.

But things did not go smoothly that night. After a long waiting, word was received that the Seventh Division boys would detrain at Evron, 35 kilos away, and their train was due there just two hours from the time the message was received. For an instant the job seemed impossible—the girls had been up all night; the Army trucks which had brought their supplies to the depot had long since been dismissed; all that was left to depend upon was the one-ton camionette to transport supplies to feed 1600 men, the two canteen girls, their soldier driver, and kitchen utensils. Then the Army stepped in and through the kindness of the liaison officer a touring car was secured, precious minutes spent in repacking, and they were whirled away to the new scene of operations, to do over again all they had been so eager to do the night before.

The Seventh Division boys had had a hard pull on their way from Germany, and while the very fact that they were headed for home meant light hearts, even the most light-hearted doughboy can get decidedly uncomfortable physically. Already two days late, packed in the train like sardines, unshaven and living on light rations, they were a pretty disgusted and tired lot of boys when they finally detrained at Evron. They had had no breakfast that morning, for it had been planned that breakfast time would find them 20 kilos further on where a hot meal was awaiting them. But it was then 10 o’clock and



the twenty kilos were still to be covered. No, I don't think we can blame those boys for growling a bit as they adjusted their packs preparatory to the long hike.

But something had happened. The canteen had reached Evron and the order came to line up and file past the tables where the tired, dirty but very happy "Y" girls, with muscles that ached were ladling out the hot, steaming chocolate that put new life into every man. I don't think a more grateful crowd of boys could be found, some of them sheepishly filing by with an apologetic grin for the two days' growth of stubbly beard on his face. But, bearded, dirty, wrinkled and all, the smile of appreciation and the atmosphere of "Gee! ain't this great!" which filled the place was pay enough for the Rolling Canteen.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tales of this sort could be told indefinitely, and for long years to come will live in the hearts and minds of men and women to whom the war becomes only a memory.

The Rolling Canteen gave the letters "Y. M. C. A.," a new force, a living power of service. Of all the departments of overseas work undertaken by this huge organization, none has stood for harder work, longer hours, or more difficulties overcome than this. It is easily understood why those women who have served the Rolling Canteen are proud of their record and would not exchange it for any other kind of service—while those who were less fortunate frankly envy them their opportunity.

#### SERVICE BY ROLLING CANTEEN

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
No. Canteens . . . . .	2	5	7	15	18	26
No. Girls. . . . .	4	10	14	30	45	60
No. Extra Help. . . . .	6	15	21	45	60	75
Kilometers Trav'ld . . . . .	950	2,375	3,325	7,125	8,750	6,500
No. Places Served. . . . .	120	300	420	900	1,080	2,000
No. Hours Served. . . . .	240	600	840	1,800	2,160	3,115
No. Hours Preparing to Serve . . . . .	300	750	1,050	2,250	2,700	3,250
No. Men Served. . . . .	90,000	225,000	315,000	675,000	785,000	875,000
No. Gallons Cocoa and other Drinks . . . . .	1,200	3,000	4,200	9,000	97,200	105,000
No. Cakes and Doughnuts . . . . .	450,000	1,125,000	1,170,000	3,375,000	3,925,000	4,575,000
Ice Cream Cones. . . . .	....	....	....	....	90,000	235,000



## SHOPPING BUREAU

*From Paris Edition "The New York Herald," July 2, 1919**"Helping Soldiers Shop"*

THE BUYING for American soldiers to enable them to take back gifts to mothers, sisters, wives and sweet-hearts, is one of the many unique features of the welfare work in France. Mrs. Gertrude Gilmour assisted by five American girls, helped in conducting soldiers on their shopping trips, and helped them to choose the proper gifts, which included everything from drumsticks to gold fillings for teeth.

One soldier said he wanted to take a souvenir of France to his brother, and he thought he would like to have a pair of drumsticks; another asked for help to buy some gold fillings for his teeth; another sent a franc in a letter and asked to have produced "a Frenchy lacc collar," and to have it sent by post to his sweetheart; another asked for a bridal veil, and still another sent 100 francs for a selection of seven gifts for his family—and if there were anything left, to buy "a cheap rosary for a brother I do not like." These are a few of the thousands of requests that were received and without exception, all requests were complied with satisfactorily.

The best work was done in the hospitals, whence the sick men were to be sent directly to the ships. As none of them wanted to leave without a gift for the "folks at home" samples were taken to them of the objects in the shops, and the purchasers were helped to select things according to the photographs which soldiers would show them. The nurses always reported the men much improved after the anxiety of remembering the "home folks" was off their minds.

## SIGHT-SEEING AND SHOPPING—LE MANS

	Rural	City	Shopping Trips
January .....	.....	.....	.....
February .....	225	825	.....
March .....	650	1875	150
April .....	725	1750	175
May .....	750	1680	200
June .....	650	975	250
Totals .....	3000	7105	775

Sight-seeing—Walking trips in and about Le Mans. Motor trips into surrounding areas.

Shopping Bureau—Experts in art and lace at disposal of officers and men for purchases in local markets.

## THE STATION CANTEEN



IT IS true, indeed, that great things often have small beginnings. And again it is true that the failure or success of the Y. M. C. A. in the A. E. F. has depended upon the initiative and energy of the individual secretaries. To see the tremendous Y. M. C. A. operations of dispensing welfare to tired and hungry men at the station or at the arrival or departure of trains in the Le Mans area during the months when hundreds of thousands of troops passed through the A. E. C., one would never guess the humble origin of the scheme, nor the obstacles that had to be cleared before the machinery for the extensive scale could be put into motion.

In december of 1918, a "Y" secretary created his own job of meeting trains of troops bound for the ports. The average number of men passing through Le Mans then was about 3500 a day.

The secretary reported conditions to headquarters, recommending that a canteen be established at the station to dispense hot coffee, cookies, cigarettes and tobacco free to the soldiers passing through Le Mans. Since such a move would be trespassing upon the rights of the Red Cross, the Army objected to the establishment of the Y. M. C. A. Canteen, and the Y. M. C. A. was powerless for a time. There was obviously work for all, however, and the determined secretary never gave up hope until he had won permission from the "Y." the Army, the Chef de la Gare, and had the consent of the Red Cross to install his station canteen. The little space allotted him by the station master was 16x25 feet out on the platform. Meanwhile the secretary and his assistant had instituted the plan of steering the soldiers who came in late at night up to the central hut for hot coffee and chocolate. After the canteen at the station was opened, its diminutive size still made necessary the caring for all the soldiers who had time, at the Central Hut. This midnight visitation of the soldiers from the trains was the beginning of the "Midnight Follies," at Central—one of the most unique institutions of the A. E. F. Here thousands of boys were able to leave the uncomfortable, cold box cars in which they were making their miserable trip to the coast, and go to the big warm canteen, get a good hot meal, see a clean, wholesome show, and get back to the train in the allotted time for the "Y" secretaries made it their business to know how many minutes were to spare.

The success of the Le Mans Station Canteen later called for the establishment of an equally successful and important canteen at the station in Rennes.

## DIARY OF A DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

*Copied from Diary of C. W. Ashcraft, Divisional Secretary,  
Stationed at Chateau Gontier.*



AD NOTICE that 136th Reg. 62nd Brigade, 37th Artillery would arrive Chateau Gontier 6:30 tonight (Feby. 5th, 1919). Had arranged with Chef de la Gare to set two canteen boilers outside station and make and serve hot chocolate to the soldiers detraining, so Mr. H. M. Bing, Mr. E. H. Price, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Earl, Mrs. Scriven and Miss Schimmelfeng and I got very busy to get ready for their arrival. Had only 30 minutes' notice. I went way up the track and got about a bushel of coke in sack and brought it on shoulder to use in boilers, avoiding smoke. At 6:30 train reported three hrs. late. At 9:30 reported 6 hrs. late. At 12:30 reported to arrive at 1 a. m. Arriving time moved forward one or two hours at time. Had hot chocolate ready at 6:30 at night by getting first hot water from hotel. Kept it hot right on through night and until 9:30 Thursday night (Feby. 6) when train pulled in. All soldiers allowed to march by and get mess cup full hot chocolate, cigarettes and cakes. Cold rain falling and soldiers marched to billets in barns, attics, etc. Ladies worked until all troops detrained 3 a. m. Friday, then they went to bed and we men cleaned up the things, helped soldiers find billets or hotels until daylight. Then began to load boilers, tables and other equipment and move to Segre. where the 135th Reg. was to arrive about noon.

Met troops at Segre. Bing and Earl remained at Chateau Gontier in charge of hut. Godfrey, Price, Mrs. Scriven and Miss Schimmelfeng and I rushed to Segre to set up and be ready. Began serving hot chocolate, cigarettes and cakes at 2 p. m. Friday (Feby 7) in basement of Catholic school room. Finished serving at 10 p. m.

Rec'd notice that 134th Reg. had arrived Segre en route to Le Lion d' Augar, 14 k. away. Would lie in train in Segre several hours and arrive Le Lion 7 o'clock morning, Saturday, 8th. Very much disturbed about cars to move equipment from Segre to Le Lion. No gasoline in Segre, or any other nearby town. Had only one Ford car and one camionette. All gas out in cars. Took ladies to Le Lion to hotel and Price and I rushed back to Segre arriving little after midnight. Godfrey had remained in Segre to take care of things. Just as reached school room car stopped, gas out. Terror-stricken, Godfrey said Fords hot would run on K. oil. Loaded both caterers' boilers back seat of

Ford. G. I. cans and pans on them, with sugar, chocolate and milk. Tied tables on sides, then took K. oil from three lamps and small stove, in all about three pints, poured into Ford, Godfrey cranked her up, Price and I bounced in and pushed our faces thru the night toward Le Lion. Godfrey remained with things in Segre. But as we left, Godfrey said (and I'll never forget it) Bro. Ashcraft, I know you will get there for I know what's in your heart. And just then I was saying, "I'll do my part the best I can and God will do the rest. Oh, God, as you let not the oil fail once before, now magnify this while we make this trip." We landed at the station in Le Lion 2:30 Saturday morning, 8th. Engine stopped dead and out of oil right at the depot in Le Lion d' Angers. High fence around station and gate locked. Oh, so cold and ground covered with snow. Price and I put furnaces, boilers, tables, cans, sugar, cocoa, etc., over fence and thru cracks. Climbed fence, set up boilers, found fagots and made fires, found well, drew water and had it hot at 5:30, when the ladies were awakened at hotel and came to make chocolate. At 7:00 Saturday morning all ready for train due. Train 1 hr. late, 2 hrs. late, etc. Finally arrived 11 a. m., but chocolate hot and ready all time. Mr. Stimson, who had served with this reg. when in training, came to be their secy here and assisted today. It was bitter cold all day, but wonderful day nevertheless. Finished about 5 p. m., and hurried to Chateau Gontier, tired and sleepy, but very happy. Had gone three nights and three days without sleep and only three meals. Particularly happy because this Brigade trained at Montgomery, Ala., my home state, where had "Y" service. Then separated for their division and no more "Y" service until given it by me and things they said about Ala., very gratifying. Surely no other Div. Sec. ever had such fine men and women assigned him. Such wonderful work and such endurance and happy all time. All commanding officers came and expressed deep appreciation for service.





## SERVICE FOR ALLIES

## THE POLISH CAMP PERSONNEL

EDWARD J. OBERHOLSER.....*Camp Secretary*  
 J. S. ANDRESON.....*Athletic Director*

**T**HE Y. M. C. A. did practical and efficient service with the Polish Camp, which for months contained a thousand or more soldiers, more than one-half of whom were American citizens. Besides having one of the most complete canteens in the area, an efficient educational work was carried on consisting of picture shows, instruction and interesting talks, many with talent supported by Y. M. C. A. headquarters.

Edward J. Oberholser, camp secretary, proved so valuable to the work among the Poles that he was asked to accompany the troops to their mother country, to aid in forwarding "Y" work in Poland. Before his departure he was presented with a handsome present by the appreciative Poles, who patronized the "Y."

J. S. Andresen, athletic director at the camp, had the unusual experience of working with the soldiers of three different countries, American, French and Poles. In addition to his duties as athletic director, Mr. Andresen compiled a manual or handbook of exercises which he translated into the Polish language, and which will be officially adopted by the Polish Army.

## WITH CHINESE

Y. H. PENG.....*Secretary*

**T**HE scope and adaptability of the Welfare Service of the Young Men's Christian Association abroad is notably illustrated in the splendid results achieved among the Chinese soldiers, about 400 of whom were located at Le Mans in three camps, as wards of the French Army and working for that organization in a Labor Battalion.

The social welfare of the men in this area was in charge of Y. H. Peng, a brilliant young Chinese student, a full fledged American Y. M. C. A. secretary, who directed entertainment work in the three camps.

The secretary introduced into the camps many activities, social, recreational, and educational. He gave lectures every evening. In each camp there was a reading room in which were found Chinese periodicals, magazines and papers. Chinese, English and French classes were organized. For recreation, the Chinese were taught to play soccer

ball, volley ball, running, jumping, baseball, throwing and tug-of-war.

With the object of encouraging athletics among his compatriots Mr. Peng started the so-called Triangular Meet or Athletic Competitions between the three Chinese camps. Banners were awarded to championship teams, and many individual prizes to the best runners and jumpers. The Cinema show was a very popular entertainment among the Chinese.

### FOYER DES SOLDAT

JOHN T. MOORE.....Secretary

A PECULIAR bond of fellowship was always manifest between the French Polui and the American doughboy. The polui coveted the doughboy, and the Y. M. C. A. and the French command saw the necessity for it. Hence the Foyer des Soldat, which was nothing more nor less than a Y. M. C. A. for the French soldier.

While an interchange of courtesy permitted a polui in the doughboys' "Y," still in Le Mans, where both were found in such large numbers, it was found more practicable to maintain separte huts and the French work was directed by an American secretary.



1. Polish Camp "Y." 2. "Y" at Chinese Labor Battalion. 3 and 4. Foyers des Soldat.

## MEMORIAL DAY

"Les fleurs pour les soldats Americaines!"

THERE was a murmuring of little voices from the streets and the pattering of many sturdy little boots upon the cobble stones. The children of France were mobilizing, armed with big bouquets of bright blossoms, to do honor to the graves of American dead. Patter, patter, patter—the tramping of many feet over the bridge, like Roman soldiers of old in regular formation, division by division, each led by his school master for a commander—the young soldiers of France marched steadily on. The bright bouquets were held proudly in their hands, their eyes were glowing and their faces beaming with happiness.

It was Memorial Day in Le Mans. Just the sort of Memorial Day one might expect back home—soft breeze, sunshine, the pleasant perfume of flowers—the city astir in preparation for the services of the day. Market women in their stiff, white caps stood at street corners with big baskets of flowers, and the passers-by stopped in their hurried walk and bought, then laden with their purchases started on again past the old Roman wall to join the Americans. For France was celebrating, too. Hand in hand with her Ally from across the sea she was offering her finest to show her appreciation of "les soldats Americaines" who had fought and died and whose graves were now entrusted to her care.

Back at Y. M. C. A. Headquarters there was much quiet hurrying to complete the final tasks in preparation for the part the "Y" was to take in the services, for at the request of the Army the "Y" had full responsibility for the decorations.

Promptly at 9:30 huge autos unloaded their burden of men and women secretaries in strict uniform at the gates of the Le Mans Cemetery, where soldiers of the Seventh Division were drawn up in a double line to form entryway through which the American portion of the cemetery was approached. The children of France were drawn up enmasse at one side of a hollow square formed by more soldiers of the Seventh Division standing at attention, in the center of which stood the huge flag pole from which the Stars and Stripes floated at half mast. A platform had been built around this pole, now covered with floral pieces and wreaths, tributes from French friends, various welfare organization, and the Army.

The strains of "Nearer My God To Thee" broke the silence. To the listening Americans it brought a renewed faith through the saddened atmosphere, as their thoughts went out to the suffering parents, the wives and sweethearts across the sea, who had given their loved ones

in the cause of humanity. Verse by verse the hymn rolled on—majestic, powerful in its sway of human emotions—while tears coursed unashamed down the cheeks of men and women alike. Patriotic addresses delivered by Hon. Henry Morgenthau, former American Ambassador to Turkey, and by Mr. M. C. Blet, Prefet du Mans, were fitting tributes to American heroes who slept their last sleep row upon row on this hillside of France; the burial service of the different faiths—Jewish, Protestant and Catholic—were read with reverent solemnity, all united now into a simple service of love and memory; and the children of France stood in the hot sun waiting without murmur or complaint during these services they could not understand, to take their part.

Once more the strains of a hymn came floating upon the air, softly at first, then louder and clearer sending its message of hope and cheer to the troubled hearts of its hearers. "How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord"—surely, surely, these boys had not died in vain! But had builded by their deeds and death the very "foundation" for an eternal "peace upon earth, good will toward men." Then followed the salute to the dead, the unfurling of the colors, and the bugler stood forth to play "Taps." Clear and strong went forth the call—a serene and calm benediction which brought Heaven very near, but would not permit of sadness for these lads who had answered their last roll-call, but brought rather a calm conviction that all was well with those whom He had seen fit to call unto Himself.

An instant of solemn hush followed—then the band swung into the martial music of "Onward Christian Soldiers" and 5000 French boys and girls broke ranks and marched across that field of sleep, each child dropping his tribute of blossoms at the foot of the white crosses which marked the American graves. It was an unusual moment—for to the watching Americans came the conviction that here was a feeling time nor tide could not break, a mutual understanding between the two races, united in a common cause.

Our Memorial Day was over. The soldiers marched back to their quarters; the French lingered a while for a last expression of their sympathy, then quietly departed; the children had long since gone clattering back to their schools; the Americans were scattered about the cemetery seeking the particular graves of relatives or friends which they desired to honor; even then the flowers so recently placed on the graves had begun to droop in the heat; but over all there still lingered the spirit which had been so lavishly poured forth, expressed by the children of France and their touching tribute of flowers.

"Les fleurs pour les soldats Americaines?"





1. Welfare Workers Gathering Flowers for Memorial Day. 2. At the Grave of Miss Gertrude Valentine. 3. Memorial Day at Le Mans 1919 Address by Hon. Henry Morganthau

## In Memoriam

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GERTRUDE CRISSEY VALENTINE

Canteen Worker, Camp Etat

Died in Line of Duty, June 11, 1919

Respiratory Paralysis Following Contusion of Spinal Cord

---

HARRY G. FISHER

Entertainment Director, Ninety-first Division, La Ferte'—Bernard

Died in Line of Duty February 19, 1919

Pneumonia Following Influenza

---

Buried in Officers' Row With Full Military Honors in American Section  
of Le Mans Cemetery, Where Rest Nearly One Thousand Other  
Members of the A. E. F.

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### SECTION III NORTHWEST AREA CONLIE HEADQUARTERS

#### PERSONNEL

THOMAS H. FRANCISCO.....	<i>Area Supervisor</i>
WILLIAM C. MOORE.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
W. D. HIGGINS.....	<i>Field Secretary</i>
W. H. B. LYON.....	<i>Warehouse and Salvage</i>
MISS JEM SHERMAN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
MISS MABEL D. BROWN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>

#### EIGHTY-FIFTH DIVISION

JOHN S. SCULLY.....	<i>Division Secretary</i>
A. J. HILLHOUSE.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
JAMES B. ANDRESEN.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
R. M. WOOD.....	<i>Religious Director</i>
OLIN W. WEBSTER.....	<i>Cashier</i>
AMZIE E. JORDAN.....	<i>Warehouse Manager</i>
M. A. STEWART.....	<i>Secretary</i>
B. T. STONE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. P. CARNEGIE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
T. H. FRANCISCO.....	<i>Secretary</i>
O. A. PRICE.....	<i>Secretary</i>

#### CANTEEN WORKERS

Stella Nelson	Estelle Pryor
Mabel Brown	Florida Kountz
Gem Sherman	Elizabeth Wood
Mrs. May Wells	Mary Holmes

Elizabeth Bowie



ONLIE Area was the home of two full Divisions, the 85th, which arrived January 16 and departed for home in March, and the Seventh, which came in from near Germany on May 13 to remain until the first week in June. The "Y" had its trials and tribulations in the Conlie Area, in common with the other sections of the region. On the whole, however, the Welfare work accomplished was of a high order and was efficient.

January was a difficult month for service; rain fell almost continuously, it was cold, supplies were insufficient and transportation problems hindered and at times forbade the movement to the area of anything like the needed equipment and supplies. The self-sacrifice of the personnel at Conlie and the utter devotion to duty of all saved the situation.



## SEVENTH DIVISION—CONLIE

HACKETT BARBEE.....*Divisional Secretary*

Jesse Elliott  
 L. M. Francis  
 Calvin Faris  
 Wayne H. Johnson  
 Eric B. Sikes  
 W. L. Truden  
 F. S. Osgood  
 E. L. Fox  
 H. C. Green  
 W. H. Metcalf  
 W. L. Freeman  
 E. L. King  
 B. S. Binford  
 G. L. Nyquist  
 Geo. Cossemas  
 W. H. Hargrave  
 H. A. Roerig  
 Jesse Martin  
 Norman Stewart  
 C. R. Martin  
 Lloyd R. Calkins  
 Margaret Bean  
 Luella H. Adams  
 Elizabeth Beyer  
 Eugenia Bradshaw  
 Edith S. Buck  
 Marjorie Campbell  
 Susan Clark  
 Dorothy Croaksdale

Flora Eloise Creech  
 Eugenia Diven  
 Eunice Dogett  
 Antoinette Doughty  
 Jane C. Elliott  
 Effie Fiscus  
 Rena Fowler  
 May Francies  
 Elizabeth Hammett  
 Elizabeth Hazelhurst  
 Flora Howe  
 Cora Lee King  
 Anna McCollum  
 Mrs. Martha Miller  
 Annie Myers  
 Frances Newell  
 Daphne Selden  
 Bessie Stewart  
 Gertrude Valentine  
 Grace Walker  
 Margaret Wood  
 Jane MacLaren  
 Ruby Howe  
 Mrs. Wayne Johnson  
 Margaret Law  
 Mrs. Harriet Nutter  
 Mary Paxton  
 Mrs. Jessie Amos  
 Katherine Welles



When the Seventh Division started to enter the Conlie area, the region had been entirely "washed out" of equipment. Inside of three days the men in charge of the work had set up Y. M. C. A. centers in 49 towns. Buildings were taken over, tents pitched, contracts drawn and every hamlet that contained 200 men or more had "Y" activities of some kind the same day it was occupied by troops. Five rolling canteens were hastily brought into the area for supplementary service and six cinema machines were supplied. It was a record in itself.

The matter of saving time in serving a company of men with hot chocolate and cakes by the Y. M. C. A. as they detrined was so important to the Army officers that frequently not all the men in the ranks could secure anything. This was obviated when the following plan was thought out and put into practive. As the men retrained and formed in columns of four they approached the Y. M. C. A. tent and were served without waiting longer than to lift their tin cup from their belts and hand it out to be filled, and without losing their formation. This was accomplished by having two long tables stationed with each other and apart far enough so that two lines might be served from each table as they passed through the tent. The lines alternately were served first with chocolate and secondly with cakes, no stop being necessary to reform as they continued on past the tent. This system was subsequently used by many canteen workers and was officially commended by Army officers. It was efficiently worked out in the Ballon area, at Beaumont and at Conlie with the Seventh Division.

An unusual honor was conferred upon the 28 Y. M. C. A. women canteen workers with the Seventh Division, when the troops moved from Colombey-les-Belles to Conlie, in appreciation of the splendid service rendered by the "Bluebirds" to the men. Major J. R. Miller, chief Welfare officer, gave the group of young women a personally conducted excursion from base to base in five large reconnaissance trucks which made the three hundred miles without mishap. Hotel accommodations and picnic lunches were provided for the "Y" girls under the personal direction of Major Miller, who expressed the sentiment that they were entitled to even more courtesy because of their excellent records in Welfare work for the boys.

#### HOW THE "Y" WORKS

**O.** W. VOORHEES, religious work secretary with the Conlie contingent, and for some time at Laval, gives a pen picture of "Y" work in the area, which is based on actual conditions at the time:

Captain X comes bustling into "Y" headquarters at Laval for he has an important errand—a pocket full of francs to hand over to the business secretary, from the canteen operated in the town where his outfit of colored engineers is billeted. In a day or two the "Y" will relinquish responsibility for the canteen to the Quartermaster's Department of the Army, and when the last reports are in this connection with the "Y" will be severed. So at least thinks Captain X.

The money is paid over to the man in charge, and Captain X is about to depart, well satisfied with a duty well performed. But he hears a query:

"Captain, how is the educational work going in your outfit?"

"Educational work? We have none."

"Did you not know of the order that educational advantages were to be offered to all the soldiers, and that all who cannot read and write are under orders to attend the schools that are set up? We have found illiterates in every detachment of colored men we have met."

"That is news to me. The order must have failed to reach me."

"Well, that's the fact. Now can we help you put the program over?"

"But we have no place for classes."

"We will supply a tent if you will find a place for it and furnish a detail to put it up."

"That is good as far as it goes, but we have no tables and benches."

"We will supply them also. We will also furnish books and a man to organize the work and instruct some of your non-coms as teachers. In some camps the men are required to learn to write their names at least. They cannot receive their pay until they learn to sign the pay roll. Issue such an order in your outfit, and you will have no trouble to get men into your school."

"That's good. How soon can we begin?"

"We will give the order for the tent and equipment at once if you promise to do your part."

"That is fine. Now, let me see. Can't you send a live wire out to talk to our boys? I rather think they need a little preaching."

"Surely. Meet the religious secretary. And be sure that the service is well advertised. Anything more we can do for you?"

"I wonder if there are any other colored outfits around here. Our men would like to challenge them to a baseball game. Something of that sort helps keep the men occupied."

"Surely! We have all the information here. Come and look at our

map. There are colored troops there and there (pointing). See the athletic secretary. He will be glad to help you make the arrangements, and secure any additional athletic equipment you may need. Captain X, let me introduce you to Mr. A. I think you and he can arrange this matter to your satisfaction."

The interviews with the athletic and religious secretaries were prompt and businesslike, and Captain X went away a little later than he had expected, but with a supply of information that set him thinking. He had imagined that the canteen was the big end of "Y" work. Here he had come in one short hour into contact with its educational, religious and athletic activities and had found them all offering valued and valuable aid for his men.

In one camp many colored men had practically their first schooling under the "Y" secretary, and were proud indeed when they could sign their names to the pay roll, and could send their first letters in their own handwriting to the folk back home.

The northwest area had a large problem in the service of many widely scattered units; engineers, labor batallions, etc. Large units of colored batallions centered at Mayenne Forest and at St. Denis d'Orques and were served by colored secretaries. An important unit was the Polish regiment located at Sille Guame.





1. Afternoon Tea; Officers at Ballon. 2. Improvised Cafe in Sixteenth Century Building, Used as "Y" Reading Room at La Ferte-Bernard. 3. Canteen Service at Conley Hut. 4. Michigan Hut at Conley. 5. Hostess House at Ballon. 6. Sixteenth Century Town Hall at La Ferte-Bernard, used as "Y."



## NORTHEAST AREA

## BALLON HEADQUARTERS

## PERSONNEL

C. R. HENCH.....	<i>Area Supervisor</i>
I. L. PUTNAM.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
THOMAS FRIEND.....	<i>Accountant</i>
MABEL E. SHERIDAN.....	<i>Activities Director</i>
ROLAND BATSON.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
A. L. BIXLER.....	<i>Religious Director</i>
H. W. HYDE.....	<i>Assistant Athletic Director</i>
ELEANOR A. KETCHUM.....	<i>Office Secretary</i>
ERNEST KNIGHT.....	<i>Transportation Director</i>
D. A. SLOAN.....	<i>Assistant Athletic Director</i>
MISS SALLIE MASSEY.....	<i>Hostess House</i>

## THIRTIETH DIVISION—BALLON

## PERSONNEL

J. NORMAN PATTERSON.....	<i>Division Secretary</i>
WALTER L. MATTIS.....	<i>Transportation Manager</i>
STEPHEN O. GIBBS.....	<i>Accountant</i>
CHARLES R. HENCH.....	<i>Assistant Accountant</i>
JESSE J. DODD.....	<i>Warehouse Manager</i>
MARTIN H. DOANE.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
JOHN E. DUNN.....	<i>Religious Director</i>
ELLIOTT C. ROGERS.....	<i>Educational Director</i>
MARCUS E. NELLUMS.....	<i>Accountant</i>
GEORGE R. BAYNTAIN.....	<i>Warehouse Secretary</i>
DAVID A. SLOAN.....	<i>Associate Athletic Secretary</i>
HOMER F. PRICE.....	<i>Motor Transport Secretary</i>
HOMER F. PIERCE.....	<i>Driver</i>
EUGENE G. REXFORD.....	<i>Driver</i>
HENRY BAKER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. C. KINKAIDE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. S. ROUNDS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. H. LYCAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. J. RITTER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. S. WRAY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. M. MILLS.....	<i>Secretary</i>

W. S. McBRIDE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
B. McCLEARY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. C. CRONK.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. J. JENNINGS.....	<i>Canteen</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Miss Effie Shields	Miss Sallie Massey
Miss Frances Cooper	Miss Teresa McDavid

## THIRTY-SEVENTH DIVISION—ALENCON

## PERSONNEL

CRATE DALTON.....	<i>Division Secretary</i>
HERBERT S. GILKEY.....	<i>Cashier</i>
EDWARD E. BRIGGS.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
JOHN CALVIN BLACK.....	<i>Assistant Athletic Secretary</i>
CHAS. E. GREASON.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
CHAS. E. COSAND.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
LOUIS N. CUSHMAN.....	<i>Entertainment Secretary</i>
GEO. E. GREELEY.....	<i>Auditor</i>
CHAS. W. KELLEY.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
WALTER E. WELLMAN.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
JOHN W. PRICE.....	<i>Entertainment Secretary</i>
S. N. SELLERS.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
G. C. RANNE.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
ARTHUR LEONARD.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
S. C. WADMOND.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. A. MELCHER.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
JOS. HENY BLACKMER.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
RICHARD WILSON.....	<i>Assistant Hut Secretary</i>
AAVON RUBRIGHT.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
WM. O. FLETCHER.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
ROY FAGALY.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
GEO. B. ADAMS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
SHIRLEY REASONER.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. KELLEY BROWN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Claudine Rodgers	Anna McGlinch
Sarah H. Smith	Myrtle Weaver

## TWENTY-NINTH DIVISION—BALLON

## PERSONNEL

A. L. MALOTT.....	<i>Division Secretary</i>
H. W. CONKLIN.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
ERWIN C. FUNK.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
J. F. BICKEL.....	<i>Secretary</i>
E. E. SHRIVER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
ROY J. HICKS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
L. A. WILSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. C. MOORE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
E. S. McCARDELL.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. HOWELL.....	<i>Secretary</i>
C. S. ALBRO.....	<i>Secretary</i>
MILO MURRAY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. C. WHIPP.....	<i>Secretary</i>
ROBERT PARSONS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
GEO. WOODRING.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. C. JAMIESON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. HUNTER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
JOS. GOFFNETT.....	<i>Secretary</i>
ROBERT STEWART.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. H. ARMBRUST.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CARL TROUTWINE.....	<i>Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Mrs. Effie P. Loomis	Mary B. Jenkins
Louise McIntyre	Gertrude Marvin
Sara E. Hayes	Mayo Massey
Sallie Simonton	Mary E. Morris
Elizabeth Simonton	Essie Roberts
Eleanor E. Shyne	Helen Snyder
Louise Wilcox	Mrs. Mainer Toler
Mrs. Catherine Holcomb	Elizabeth Tuller

# EIGHTY-FIRST DIVISION—BALLON PERSONNEL

W. PAUL MOBLEY.....	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
IRVING E. PATRIDGE.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
JAMES H. RANKIN.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
B. F. POLLARD.....	<i>Motor Transport</i>
JAMES W. BALL.....	<i>Motor Transport</i>
E. J. NEWBEGIN.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
FRANK WHITBECK.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>

## SECRETARIES AND CANTEEN WORKERS

Helen R. Churchill	Ralph C. Barnstead
Miss Cassett	F. A. Harris
Eleanor Ketchum	Curtis M. Harrison
Ona M. Rounds	F. B. Howland
Janet Linehan	G. A. Johns
Ethel Wright	Charles Henry
Bertha Howell	S. D. Leonard
Mary F. Jones	F. R. Mitchell
Anne G. Brown	George W. Blair
Gladys Wood	E. C. Freese
Christine Pollock	Bernard Peterson
Gladys Graham	W. J. Allen
Bernice White	G. E. Webster
Mary Garrett	Frank W. Harrison
Mildred Severance	M. D. Roberts
Alice Macy	Calvin Ferris
Jean Davidson	W. H. B. Lyon
Martha Allen	T. T. Simmons
Ruth Lew	G. W. Everett
Helen Woodman	Chas. A. Lloyd
Ella S. Molter	E. W. Warrington
Dorothy Hiller	E. F. Hecox
Constance Scudder	F. W. Engle
Ireline DeWitt	James G. Cairns
Henrietta Honey	Thomas J. Thomas
Lilly M. Young	H. O. McDonald
Kilbourne Cowles	W. L. Grimes
F. Miriam Stowers	F. A. Carmony
Florida Kountz	M. C. Bullock
Mrs. Effie Loomis	Hugh M. Mills
Archie Brown	T. T. Simmons
W. C. Cronk	





THE Y. M. C. A. personnel who served the passing troops in the Ballon area will long remember the old Chateau de Ballon which stands on the brow of the highest hill in the territory, with the beautiful shrine of the calvary nestling at its feet. It is safe to assume that few soldiers of the 30th, 37th, 29th or 81st divisions who occupied this area on their homeward journey, missed the opportunity to climb the winding stairway and drink in the beauties of the wonderful view of France's beautiful countryside from the balconies of this old relic of the Roman age. Built in the year 824 A. D., it stands like a sentinel keeping tireless guard, still sturdy and strong, an enduring monument to the patience and wonderful workmanship of its builders.



IT WAS in December, 1918, that the streets of the little village of Ballon first echoed to the tread of American troops. The "Old Hickory" or Thirtieth Division, boys recruited from the Sunny South, were billeted in Ballon and the surrounding villages and towns—approximately 25,000 men and 900 officers—remaining here until early March. The men were weary and nerve-shaken, just recovering from the shock of the terrific battering they had received at the front. They wanted to go home—and exile to the more or less uncomfortable billets in this area for an indefinite stay did not add to their peace of mind. It was evident that something had to be done, and the Y. M. C. A. set to work to find the solution to the problem.

At this time the "Y" was beginning to get organized in the Le Mans region, transportation was hard to get, and the bulk of the work to be undertaken for "Old Hickory" boys fell upon the shoulders of a few. Of course, there was the usual "Y" tent which served as a warm, cheery gathering place for the men; there was the canteen with hot chocolate and coffee, and even a piano with a few scattered sheets of

music. But more than rest, the boys needed diversion. To a "Y" girl belongs the credit of suggesting the first local talent show put over in this area by soldier actors of the Second Battalion, 114th Infantry, 30th Division, who were billeted in the small town of Torce. Rehearsals began the Friday before Christmas and the actors found themselves faced with the tremendous task of not only providing the lines and action, but the costumes, scenery and stage. Rapid scout work among the good-natured French with much resultant fun and jollity secured a portion of the costumes; the platform was made from tables borrowed from the village cafe; army blankets made splendid curtains, and Christmas night the "show" made its initial appearance before a large and enthusiastic crowd in the "Y" tent.

The keynote of diversion for the "Old Hickory" boys was thus struck, and the rest of their stay in the Ballon area was largely spent in the development and production of a soldier show which they proudly called "Hickory Nuts." To present this, the Y. M. C. A. secured the use of the only theatre in Ballon which had its entrance through a French cafe and which was promptly dubbed "Old Hickory Theatre." Trucks went out into the area on the nights on which performances were to be given and brought into Ballon the bored, lonesome boys so eager for this amusement. "Hickory Nuts" had a two months' run, playing two and sometimes three nights of each week to an ever-changing crowd. Performance over, there was always a rush for the "Y," where the canteen was open and hot chocolate was waiting to be served before loading the big trucks for the trip back to billets. At this stage in the game, the Welfare Service was crude and undeveloped in comparison to what was later achieved, but the spirit of service and the hard work done accomplished a feeling of friendship and goodwill between the boys of the "Old Hickory" Division and the "Y" representatives, which will linger long in the hearts of both.



**T**HE COMING of the Thirty-seventh Division into the Ballon area, December 24, 1919, distinctly marked a challenge to the "Y." Over 25,000 men and about 800 officers occupied billets in Alencon

and vicinity, coming into this area from Belgium, where they had been resting after their test of service in the Argonne Forest. It was claimed that up to that time the "Y" had done nothing for the Thirty-seventh Division and the attitude of men and officers alike was distinctly that of "make good or quit."

The Division was first expected to occupy billets in St. Calais and the surrounding towns, and the "Y" set busily to work establishing canteens to meet the incoming troops. The work was well under way when a sudden change in the Army's plans sent the troops to Alencon and vicinity, and all the work of preparation had to be done over again. Fourteen "Y" men and one "Y" girl left St. Calais December 23, arriving in Alencon the twenty-fourth, and started their work of service by preparing a Christmas dinner for 64 enlisted men, the advance guard of the Thirty-seventh Division, just arrived cold, tired and hungry—and it is safe to state that for once the Red Triangle sign looked most comforting to at least a few boys who wore the Buckeye insignia. But the battle had just begun.

It was a difficult proposition which the "Y" was facing that cold, wintry weather. The "Y" Headquarters—Le Mans, was fully 45 kilometers away; the troops were billeted in over 40 different towns, distant from five to twenty-five kilometers from Alencon; it was necessary to truck all supplies from Le Mans, and deliver them to the different huts and canteens—and there were only twenty "Y" men and four "Y" girls to put over the job. But the spirit with which these twenty-four undertook their difficult work would not be denied. Bit by bit the task was put over—for weeks and months they covered the territory under most disagreeable weather conditions, serving free to the boys good hot chocolate, good advice and cheer, until huts and canteens became more thickly established, a rolling canteen made its appearance and relieved them of the more arduous trips, and they were free to turn their minds and hands to greater plans for welfare.

Sincere thanks must be extended to the officers and enlisted men of the Thirty-seventh for their coöperation. Once convinced that the "Y" intended to give the utmost possible in service to the "Buckeye" boys, they rendered every possible assistance. It was not long before educational classes were formed and supervised in Alencon and writing and reading rooms were furnished. A theatre building was leased and the Entertainment Department supplied entertainment and motion pictures. The Athletic Department furnished athletic events and when February 20 came and the boys of the Thirty-seventh departed for

home, their commanding officer, General Farnsworth, repaid all the sacrifices that had been made and all the pains that had been taken when he said: "The Y. M. C. A. has always given good service, but never has this Division been so well cared for as during its brief stop in the Ballon area." The "Y" had met its challenge.



THE BOYS of the "Blue and Gray" made a flying visit to the Ballon area in April, 1919, but they found the "Y" ready and waiting to give them the best service they had ever had from this organization. After subsisting upon hardtack and "bully beef" for 68 hours, practically 16,000 men stepped off the troop trains at Beaumont to be met by a "Y" man and a detail of "Y" girls, who had fully prepared to furnish that nourishment for the inner man so necessary to his mental well being. They were ushered in lines of four into a big "Y" tent, where a steaming cup of chocolate and a package of cakes was given to every man. "The Y. M. C. A. put it over strong this time," said Captain Louis B. Walker, Army Detraining Officer with the Twenty-ninth Division, to the hustling "Y" man as he scurried around to see that no one was overlooked, "and they proved a life-saver for these thousands of men who have just been through one of the most unpleasant experiences of their service—riding several days on cold troop trains, standing up most of the time, and with cold rations only. They surely needed something hot."

It took five days for these men to reach the Ballon area, during which time the "Y" girls worked on eight-hour shifts that the canteen might always be ready for emergency with plenty of chocolate ready at all times. But the end was finally reached and the boys settled very comfortably into their billets while the "Y" played the game of God-father to them all. There were entertainments and motion picture shows, chocolate barrages and dances—while the weather had so beautifully cleared up that the countryside was delightfully fresh and



green, with glorious sunshine which proved the title "Sunny France" not so far wrong after all. But the Twenty-ninth Division boys were in luck. Only five days after the last man had arrived at his billet, orders were given to pack up and move on toward that magic land across the sea. Once more the "Y" girls went into eight-hour shifts of canteen service, while the old "Y" tent at the entraining point hummed with activity. It was a strenuous time getting these happy lads started on one more lap toward home—but not a member of the "Y" personnel will ever regret any sacrifice made, or any of the back-aching work which kept the boys in smiling humor.



SIXTEEN THOUSAND men and 500 officers of the Eighty-first or "Wildcat" Division were the next troops to occupy the Ballon area. Fortunately the busy "Y" workers had a few days' rest between the leaving of the Twenty-ninth and the entry of the first troops of the Eighty-first, and were refreshed and ready to receive them. With rapid despatch the detraining troops were fed with lemonade and cake, if arriving by day, and hot chocolate and cakes if by night, given a hearty and smiling welcome as they passed on to the towns where they were to be billeted. At this time, the "Y" organization had reached a high point of efficiency and was able to put on welfare programmes which had not before been equalled in this area.

The canteen, around which much of the comfort of man centers, was always running; supplies in abundance were delivered into the area daily; athletic goods, movies, lectures and entertainments found their way into the tiniest village, and the Y. M. C. A. personnel was always on the job. That their work was of the highest type and much appreciated by those whose business it was to follow same closely can best be shown by the following excerpt from a letter written by Major-General C. J. Bailey, Commandant of the Eighty-first Division,

directed to Y. M. C. A. Secretary in charge of the welfare work. He says: "On the eve of the departure of this Division for the United States, the commanding general desires to express his thanks and appreciation for the splendid work of the Y. M. C. A. secretaries and helpers who have served with the Division in France.

"Probably the most valuable work which has been done by the Y. M. C. A. was in the areas which the Division occupied after the signing of the armistice. During this period the men did not have the same incentives which had kept up their spirits before the armistice; they realized their work was done and they were only awaiting their turn to go home; and it was only natural they should be somewhat homesick and that their morale would suffer.

"But the Y. M. C. A. set out with determined efforts to counteract these tendencies. Huts with canteen service were established in every station; local entertainments were encouraged by the secretaries and costumes provided. Moving picture machines were brought in and a schedule established that gave every station two picture shows in a week; a library was established, so there was no lack of reading matter.

"There can be no doubt that the high state of morale which exists in the Division today, is, in a large measure, due to the excellent work of the Y. M. C. A."

It was the object of the "Y" personnel to keep the "Wildcats" so busy that the frequent postponing of the home trip could be borne almost with a smile. But the time came at last when Army orders said "Pack up and go" and all energies were turned toward the last lap of the journey to the big ships. The area was gradually closed out, supplies salvaged and the personnel—those who did not return with the Division which they had served so well—drifted into other regions and other work. The Americans had come and gone, and the old Chateau de Ballon on its hilltop high, is guarding the quiet village streets and pleasant countryside as it was before the American invasion. It has viewed many a strange scene since its erection, but there will long remain memories of the stalwart buddies from across the sea who passed so hurriedly, but left such a lasting impression.

LA FERTE-BERNARD  
SUB BASE OF NORTHWEST AREA



## NINETY-FIRST DIVISION

CLIFFORD W. HAIG.....	<i>Division Secretary</i>
O. L. FERRIS.....	<i>Assistant Division Secretary</i>
WILLIS H. WARD.....	<i>Office Executive</i>
LAMAR H. WATERS.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
J. W. CADLE.....	<i>Accountant</i>
H. G. BROTHERS.....	<i>Cashier</i>
HARRY G. FISHER.....	<i>Entertainment Director</i>
C. C. HAMILTON.....	<i>Religious Director</i>
ROLAND BATSON.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
O. RAUDABAUGH.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
O. E. BAKER.....	<i>Educational Director</i>
J. L. COULTER.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
A. C. MINEAR.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
RUSSELL NELSON.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
C. M. SMALL.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
L. L. BROWN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. H. BRUGGERS.....	<i>Motor Transport</i>
NEIL CAMPBELL.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
C. A. DRUMMOND.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
N. A. EDMONDS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
G. M. FULLER.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. INBUSH.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
G. W. JOHNSON.....	<i>Motor Transport</i>
R. H. McCULLAGH.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. H. MCGILL.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. W. MCGINNIS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. B. STECKER.....	<i>Motor Transport</i>

J. W. YOUNG.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
E. H. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
W. G. WINN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. J. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Telephone Director</i>
L. E. HATHEWAY.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. A. CHRISTIAN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
W. W. REID.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
PAUL TREPLE.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
G. I. SOVERIGN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>

#### CANTEEN WORKERS

Elizabeth Cahoon	Mabel Sheridan
Louise Clarke	Gertrude Brady
Charlotte Crane	Miss Lesley
Mrs. E. Lewis	



A FERTE-BERNARD, a sub-base of the Northwest area, occupies the extreme northwest section of the Le Mans area. In general characteristics it is not unlike other French villages in this part of France. The same main thoroughfare, stretching from one end of the town to the other, the familiar public square and market place, with smaller open spaces in other local centers of congregation, the ever-present stone cathedral which looms large as one approaches the town, and the narrow cobble-paved streets—all these and more comprise the typical French city of La Ferte-Bernard.

The town itself is on a hill from which may be seen some distance away an ancient castle. This structure is really situated in a swamp. It was defended by a double circle of walls, separated by deep moats filled with running water from two rivers, Big and Little Perch, it being possible to strengthen the defenses by flooding the swamps adjacent to the castle. The city was surrounded by walls with moats. It was entered by three great gates; the gate of Paris, the gate of Orleans and the gate of Le Mans. This region is notable as the home of the Percheron horses, of world-wide fame.

Into this area and in this environment the Ninety-first Division moved during late December, 1918, and early January, 1919, and this Division was the only complete one that ever occupied La Ferte,



though many scattered units passed through the region and were quartered for different periods of time in its villages and hamlets for miles around.

The Y. M. C. A. in this area was notable for the devotion of its personnel and the efficiency of the service rendered. The work started in the midwinter, under the most trying conditions and in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles.

The Ninety-first Division remained in the area from January until the last week in March and all this time the "Y" was on the job.

Major-General Johnston, in command of the Division, at the dedication of the Y. M. C. A. huts at the Forwarding Camp, March 30, spoke substantially as follows in appreciation of the work of the Association:

"We of the Ninety-first appreciate the Y. M. C. A. thoroughly, for from the time the Ninety-first Division arrived in France the Y. M. C. A. have added much to the entertainment and the supplies furnished the Division while fighting and while waiting for the fighting. The Y. M. C. A. secretaries were on the fighting line at the Argonne woods, dressing the wounded men regardless of the danger to themselves and placing themselves at the mercy of snipers from the German lines. A number of "Y" men have been recommended for the D. S. C. At a time when the ambulances were insufficient at the front the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross could be found along the roadside feeding the wounded and binding up their wounds, thus saving many lives. The Army is especially indebted to the Welfare organizations for not only supplying physical wants of the men, but for furnishing the best kind of entertainment and boosting up the morale of the soldier. The American soldier has been taught to command and to obey, but they have also had a spiritual elevation born of their experiences at the front. And to the Y. M. C. A. the Division owes more than to any other Welfare organization for the reason that the Association has a larger personnel."

Almost all the men of the Ninety-first Division were from the Pacific Coast, and the majority great big fellows, with singularly low speaking voices. They were a talented lot of men, too, and singers, players of various instruments. So that if a show failed for some reason to appear, it was almost always possible to organize an impromptu vaudeville from the audience.

The Division departed the last week of March, the last troops leaving Nogent March 31. They were served hot chocolate and cookies at

the station, by the rolling canteen workers who took charge; the men had magazines and cigarettes, and departed in high spirits. Since then until June 9, when the "Y" Hut at La Ferte passed out of existence, the town was never full, but was occupied by companies of two different battalions of M. P.'s, by members of Sanitary trains, and the Town Major's Staff. With the giving up on April 1 of the dry canteen, the work became different. It was chiefly to amuse the boys in their leisure hours during the day and in the evenings, and owing to the small number of men was far more personal. One came to realize more than ever what a lot of homesick children they are, responsive and appreciative.

There were still dances and hardly was one over before they began clamoring for the next. There were also "shows" in the theatre, although less frequently, and several times movies in the public market square, where the French populace also enjoyed them.

Typical canteen service by the Y. M. C. A. in this area is well illustrated by the following experience of a "Y" girl who relates it in her own words:

"The Sunday following my arrival I was despatched on ten minutes' notice to Nogent-le-Rotrou to make coffee for three thousand arriving soldiers of the Ninety-first Division and to remain for two or three days. The two or three days became nearly five months. I had no equipment for this, but was told to apply to the Army.

"The 'Y' secretary took me down to his mess, with a company of Supply Train already arrived. There the Army cooks, fortunately for me, took charge of things. It was a rainy day, the spot which was pronounced most suitable was a muddy road near the railway station, and with the green wood at our disposal I wondered how a fire could ever be kindled. But the Army cooks were not to be daunted. A tarpaulin shelter was quickly set up on two poles and tied between trees, two huge thirty-gallon containers were set over paving stones, borrowed from the roadside, the green wood was induced to burn by liberal dashes of gasoline and kerosene and sooner than it seemed possible water was boiling, the coffee well under way. The troops had been expected at Sunday noon, but the first train load did not arrive until late that night, when they had been given up and everyone had retired. The next morning we were on the job for the trains, and all that day and the next they kept coming. A large G. I. can was set out in the middle of the muddy road, the men filed past on each side, and a soldier and I dipped out the coffee all sweetened and with milk,

and poured it into the outheld mess cups, the rain drizzling down steadily. It was fun to hear the comments: 'An American woman.' 'Say, Miss, are you really American?' and 'Gee, it's good to hear an American woman speak.'

"After those two days there were only occasional trains, although more than half the Division passed through Nogent, besides the 2,000 or more quartered in the town itself, and detail from the last train supplied the companies with coffee, while the "Y" secretary and I busied ourselves moving into the new hut rented because of the increased demand for space. It was a large building intended for recreation purposes, and a dry canteen was installed at one end; at the other was a billiard table and writing tables, while the center space during the winter served the following purposes: Reading and writing room, basketball court (and many were the games played there), dance hall, and twice a ring was erected and boxing matches held, place for Sunday evening religious services, and on three occasions a dormitory. Once for soldiers returning from German prison camps, once for a large number of casualties for whom it was impossible to find billets in the crowded town.

"The dry canteen was most amusing in spite of the work. Of course, the boys growled and grumbled if they could not buy their favorite brand of cigarette, which so often was the one it was impossible for us to obtain, whether from "Y" sources or trips to the nearest commissary. But they could usually be 'jollied' out of this mood, and usually ended by going away in a cheerful frame of mind or tarrying to play the piano, billiards or lean over the counter and talk.

"The 'Y' entertainments and the Sunday morning services were held in the French theatre, and every night but Sunday, when the French had movies, there was something. Some of the most amusing shows were those gotten up by the boys themselves, and the 316th gave a number of these.

"Early in January the writer became Hut Secretary in full charge, and although it meant more than 12 hours a day work almost every day, it was so interesting that one hardly thought of fatigue. About this time we gave our first dance, with a few 'Y' girls available and two or three French girls who were persuaded to do the unheard of thing and come to dance with American soldiers. When they saw how well conducted the men were, and when they heard American dance music played by the regimental band, they must have enjoyed themselves,

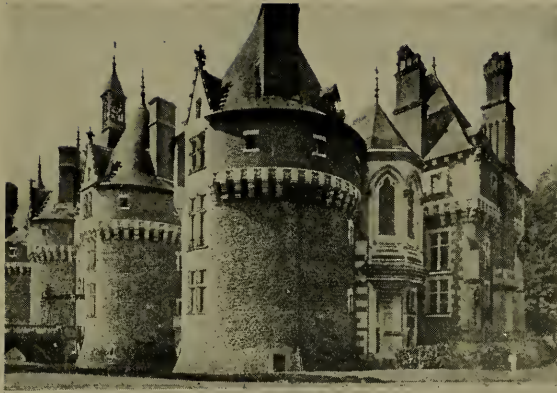
for after that at each dance, and we gave them fortnightly, the number of nice French girls increased.

"In January the wet canteen was opened, and we hoped to serve hot chocolate three times a week, but alas, owing to the arrangement by which whenever the cocoa boiler was moved to be washed, the chimney pipe which also was the chimney pipe of the canteen stove, fell down, it was impossible to do this and we usually limited ourselves to free cocoa and "cookies" as the boys called the sweet crackers, on Sunday afternoons. They praised the cocoa, even when we did not think it quite up to the mark, and one evening it did happen to be especially good, one man amazed me by saying: 'This is as good as I could make in America,' and then explained that he was a professional cocoa cook."

Another Welfare woman worker, Miss Leslie, who arrived in Le Mans about one o'clock on Christmas morning, went two days later to La Ferte. She, with Mrs. Lewis, whose story appears above, were the only two American women in their respective towns. Miss Leslie stated that on the Sunday before New Year's Day, she with two "Y" men and the Army Chaplain, spent all day at the station of La Ferte waiting for a troop train which was bringing in outfits of the Ninety-first Division. They were to serve them hot chocolate. The 8-40 (8 horses and 40 men) train did not arrive until 9 o'clock in the evening, but the men were served chocolate. This "Y" woman arranged a complete and varied programme of activities. Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights, moving pictures, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights, entertainments, and once in a while a dance. On Sunday there was a service in the morning and a band concert at night. Inter-company basketball games, stunt nights and an indoor field meet were features. Next to the building used for the dry canteen and entertainment, was the reading and writing room, and subsequently a wet canteen was set up and operated.







1. Le Chateau—Bonnetable. 2. The Eternal Stone Home of the Roadside. 3. A Lonely By-way. 4. Wine Grower's Home Near Connerre. 5. Typical Brittany Thatched Roofs. 6. In Old Rennes. 7. Gateway to La Ferte-Bernard

SOUTHEAST AREA  
ECOMMOY HEADQUARTERS

PERSONNEL

H. A. EASTMAN.....	<i>Area Supervisor</i>
H. E. DIXON.....	<i>Accountant</i>
M. P. McCLURE.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
W. A. WILDING.....	<i>Entertainment Secretary</i>
J. C. KING.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
HERBERT RAMSEY.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
W. M. SHEWRY.....	<i>Warehouse Secretary</i>
LOUISE SAVARESE.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>

TWENTY-SIXTH DIVISION

PAUL L. EVANS.....	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
R. A. BASHAM.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
GUY F. PONDER.....	<i>Accountant</i>
WALTER LOOMIS.....	<i>Warehouse Manager</i>
D. M. THOMAS.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
W. W. HOWELL.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
C. I. RAMSAY.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
A. E. SHORT.....	<i>Cashier</i>
HERBERT RAMSAY.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
L. L. WOODS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
W. D. TAYLOR.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
T. L. SPEIDEN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
R. H. WHITE.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
A. F. CARLYLE.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. E. DERR.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
W. J. BAKER.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
B. V. JOHNSON.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
M. A. CASSIDY.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
C. W. COIT.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. B. MORRIS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
B. WHITMAN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
ISAAC PATCH.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. J. CARRINGTON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
C. C. YERKES.....	<i>Secretary</i>
WM. C. GORDON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
MR. KARLSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Miss Louise Savarese	Miss Ann Elliott
Mrs. L. W. Fleming	Miss Ellen Hines
Mrs. Augusta Haring	Mrs. Georgia E. Hobbs
Miss Jane Singer	

## EIGHTIETH DIVISION

PAUL L. EVANS	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
H. A. EASTMAN	<i>Business Secretary</i>
H. E. DIXON	<i>Accountant</i>
M. P. McCLURE	<i>Religious Director</i>
L. U. KING	<i>Transportation Director</i>
C. T. BROWN	<i>Warehouse Director</i>
J. S. DEAN	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
M. W. COATES	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. E. DICKERSON	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
CHAS. GUY	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
L. E. ALLEN	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. L. STILL	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
CHAS. CLARK	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
BENJAMIN WHITMAN	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
A. R. MERRITT	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. D. SMITH	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
R. H. WHITE	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. B. MORRIS	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
W. J. McLAUGHLIN	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
B. K. HAY	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
HENRY J. PECK	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
J. K. HOWARD	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
T. L. SPEIDEN	<i>Hut Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Edith Davidson	Elizabeth P. Myers
Clara E. Stoup	Rachel Higgins
Marion Moore	Elizabeth Arnold
Olive Moss	Jane Singer
Sarah McDonald	Elizabeth Snyder
Amy Green	Catherine Hopkins
Louise Savarese	Mary V. Osborn
Josephine Hammond	Mrs. E. B. Cartwright
Ruth McClelland	Constance Crawford
Anne F. Elliott	



BEFORE LE MANS became an official embarkation center, the town of Ecommoy was one of those used as a forwarding point. The Y. M. C. A. hut was started in an abandoned French dance hall on November 16, 1918. There was the usual wet and dry canteen, then later a rough stage was built to accommodate the shows put on by the talent of the 329th Infantry. This troop remained with the town, and did much toward helping the secretary, Miss Louise Savarese, to amuse the men of the companies going through Ecommoy. In December, Laura Sherry of the "Wisconsin Players" arrived in Ecommoy to help put on a Christmas party. This took the form of an old Christmas Festival of the English Court days, with carollers, jesters, king and queen attendants, etc., with the soldiers as actors and the French people as audience. Needless to say, this proved one of the most interesting programs put on for the soldiers in France that memorable Christmas time, for it was a celebration of Yule-tide, and it included the soldiers themselves as actors. Christmas Day, a huge Christmas tree for 600 French children in the neighborhood formed as great a piece of interest to the American soldiers as of delight to the children themselves. The men had raised the money for the presents to the kiddies; Miss Savarese had done the shopping in Paris and had made the children's stockings, which the men of the 329th Infantry, Colonel McDermott, General Glenn, Mary Roberts Rhinehart, Miss Sherry and Miss Savarese distributed among the throng of children. To the men themselves the Y. M. C. A. gave Christmas gifts of candy, cigarettes and tobacco.

After Le Mans became an embarkation center, and Ecommoy became a headquarters town of one of the many areas which made up Le Mans region, two divisions passed successively; the 26th and 80th Divisions.



THE Twenty-sixth Division arrived in Ecommoy area January 27 from the training area in Northeastern France. The Y. M. C. A. had not been able to reach these men at the front, hence their attitude towards the Association was far from friendly. The secretaries, two



women and fifteen men were quick to recognize the difficulty, and threw their utmost energies and resources into the serious task of affecting a belated compensation.

Canteens were established, even though the accommodations were often distressingly poor, and kept open from 8:00 a. m. to 9:00 p. m. Each man was allowed to buy his limit, which, of course, meant that supplies ran short very quickly. But any restrictions or regulations upon their buying were those tacitly understood among the men themselves, for the "Y" gave freely of all it could get, and each day sent a French horsecart to town to haul supplies from the Army Commissary and from the Y. M. C. A. warehouse. Through persistent effort, cocoa was served in many of the canteens every day, instead of the usual three times a week. The "Y" secretaries were studiously diligent in their efforts to be of general service wherever possible; in sort, they tried to make the Y. M. C. A. the S. O. S. of favors and little acts of accommodation as well as for sweets and supplies.

In January and February, twenty-three Y. M. C. A. canteens of more or less attractiveness, were in operation over the Ecommoy area.

The situation of entertainments during the stay of the Twenty-sixth Division in the Ecommoy area improved from ten in January to 260 in March; the athletic events from 0 to 120; the religious services from 14 to 78; the educational classes from none to 1200, and the cinema shows from 0 to 62, in the corresponding length of time.

As was the case in every area in the A. E. F., the months of January and February especially were drab and empty to the soldiers waiting to go home, but certainly the personnel of the Ecommoy area made every effort to tender Y. M. C. A. service to the Twenty-sixth Division.



THE Eightieth Division was in the Ecommoy area about six weeks—from April 1 to May 16. This division fell heir to the canteens established for the Twenty-sixth Division, in addition to new ones which were made possible by the better equipment of the Y. M. C. A. in France by this time. A personnel of 49 secretaries was able to serve the men while in this area with some degree of satisfaction.



## ECOMOY AREA IN PICTURE

1. St. Ouen en Belin "Y" Quarters Through Courtesy of Parish Priest. 2 and 3. Canteen Service at Military Tournament at Ecommoy. 4. Set for Road Service to Passing Troops. 5. Tent at St. Biez. 6. "Y" Tent Adjoining Church in Town Square of Miserey. 7. Splendid Quarters at La Fleche. 8. Welcome "Y" Sign Through a Back Door. 9. Sometimes the Rooms Were Spacious. 10. Alley Entrance to "Y" at Ecommoy.

The Entertainment Department handling this Division had become particularly well organized. During the stay of the Division in the Ecommoy area 509 vaudeville and movie shows were "put over." To say that the men appreciated the splendid showing is putting it mildly. The officers also were well pleased with the excellent results attained. General Kronkhite, the commanding general, wrote the Entertainment Department as follows: "Your work was entered into in the spirit of coöperation, and was constant, intelligent and bore excellent results. The manner in which you aided us in securing musical instruments was splendid. It was in no small measure due to your efforts that the Eightieth Division became one of the very best entertained Divisions in the A. E. F."

The Ecommoy area was luckily provided with men who made it a point that the boys were to get the entertainment provided no matter what the conditions were. For instance, on April 4 Corporal Clemens and Sergeant Rhodes were ordered to Comant to put on a movie. There was no "Y" hut or tent in the town and it was raining steadily. The orders had been "put on the show or bust." Sergeant Rhodes asked the C. O. to locate a place for the show even if it were a hole in the ground. The suggestion bore excellent results for the Captain remembered there was a cave under his billet and asked the boys if they could show there.

"Lead us to it," said Rhodes.

And thus it came that in a cave 107 feet long, 14 feet wide and 14 feet high the 313 F. A. had their movie that rainy night.

Other stories might be told of the persistence and ingenuity of the entertainment men and of the appreciation of the soldier of their successful efforts to give them shows. The Eightieth Division was sent away, on its first lap toward home with the usual chocolate barrage, served by permanent personnel of the Division and the Ecommoy area secretaries.



## MONTFORT AND CONNERRE

## TWENTY-SEVENTH DIVISION PERSONNEL

JOHN BARNES.....	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
WILLIAM O'GRADY.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
WILLIAM VAN DYKE.....	<i>Cashier</i>
NORMAN WANN.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
ROSCOE C. SMITH.....	<i>Secretary</i>
EDWARD L. GRACE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
WILFORD C. GORDON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
HERMAN OSTIEN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
HAROLD B. THOMAS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
OLIVER ANDERSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CHARLES YERKES.....	<i>Secretary</i>
FRANK C. WARD.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CLAUDE D. SECHEVERELL.....	<i>Secretary</i>
LEWIS IRVING.....	<i>Secretary</i>
HENRY ARMSTRONG.....	<i>Secretary</i>
GEO. B. ARMSTRONG.....	<i>Secretary</i>
ERNEST WELLMAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
JAMES A. CAPPS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CARL KILPATRICK.....	<i>Secretary</i>
DAVID WALKER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
HOMER N. BOWMAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
OLIVER WEBSTER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
RAYMOND TALCOTT.....	<i>Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Edith Becker	Laura Heath
Charlotte Kreinheder	Kate Greenlaw
Annie Lee	Emelie A. Plume

THIRTY-FIFTH DIVISION  
PERSONNEL

ABRAM R. REEVES.....	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
GEO. F. HOWARD.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
FRANK D. PARENT.....	<i>Asst. Athletic Secretary</i>
WM. B. STEVENS.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
JOHN R. WYND.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
H. P. BURD.....	<i>Asst. Business Secretary</i>
CHAS. C. YERKES.....	<i>Cashier</i>
ROBERT GOOD.....	<i>Entertainment Secretary</i>



B. M. STEVENS.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
S. L. EBY.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
JAMES CORNEILSON.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
RAYMOND TALCOTT.....	<i>Asst. Transportation Secretary</i>
R. C. SMITH.....	<i>Secretary</i>
P. T. McFEELEY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. B. THOMAS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
L. C. NICHOLS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
E. E. WELLMAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
G. B. ARMSTEAD.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. A. RICE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CHAS. O. PATE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
SAMUEL DOWNER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
L. A. GILBERT.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. F. JOHNSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. H. THOMAS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. C. REED.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. M. STEWART.....	<i>Secretary</i>
GEO. W. CASTANIEN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
HUGH S. McKEE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. T. WATERS.....	<i>Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Marguerite Rose	Annie Lee
Helen Pedrick	Winifred Jones
Elizabeth Marshal	Sarah King
Mabel Lind	Emilie A. Plume
Ada Brittingham	Mrs. Kate Greenlaw
Charlotte Kreinheder	Edith O. Clark
Edith Becker	Reba Ullian
Rachel Higgins	Irene Dayton
Laura Heath	Frances Herring

THIRTY-SIXTH DIVISION  
PERSONNEL

J. GARFIELD KING.....	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
E. A. STRAWBRIDGE.....	<i>Business Manager</i>
A. D. WHITTLE.....	<i>Accountant</i>
F. E. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Cashier</i>
ARTHUR TAYLOR.....	<i>Warehouse Superintendent</i>
C. S. MARCH.....	<i>Educational Director</i>
F. M. DAVIS.....	<i>Entertainment Director</i>

J. H. STITT.....	<i>Religious Director</i>
G. H. HAYES.....	<i>Athletic Director</i>
J. D. VANCE.....	<i>Cinema Director</i>
L. N. CUSHMAN.....	<i>Song Leader</i>
HERMAN KELLEB.....	<i>Song Leader</i>
JEFF REYNOLDS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. B. JENNINGS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. H. EDGAR.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. F. EGGLESTON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. D. STROUD.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. E. JONES.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. A. RIPLEY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
D. L. SADLER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. W. KNOX.....	<i>Secretary</i>
C. C. STEWART.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. R. PRYOR.....	<i>Secretary</i>
WM. G. SINGLETON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. B. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
L. W. DRAKE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
E. W. THORNBERRY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
F. A. SPENCER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
GEO. F. HARBRIDGE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. C. VAN HORN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
S. H. SMITH.....	<i>Secretary</i>
CHAS. MORGAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. S. STONE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. B. KOONCE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
LEWIS STONE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
MRS. BERTHA L. CARNEY.....	<i>Office Secretary</i>
MISS PATTIE SOUTHBALL.....	<i>Accompanist</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Mrs. J. M. Hunn	Miss Julia E. Sperry
Miss Mary Deland	Miss Martha Kinsey
Miss Carolyn Emerson	Miss Barbara Waldo
Miss Hallie Jameson	Miss Louise B. Eubank
Miss Lucile M. Tom	Miss Catherine Faulkner
Miss Maud Walker	Miss Anne McCague
Miss Dorothy L. Potter	Miss Vista Black
Miss Rebecca Stewart	Miss Eleanor Leonard
Miss Cynthia Knowles	Miss Mary G. Paxton
Miss Amie Cornick	Miss Anna T. Blanton
Miss Maud Morris	Miss Mary Goetchius



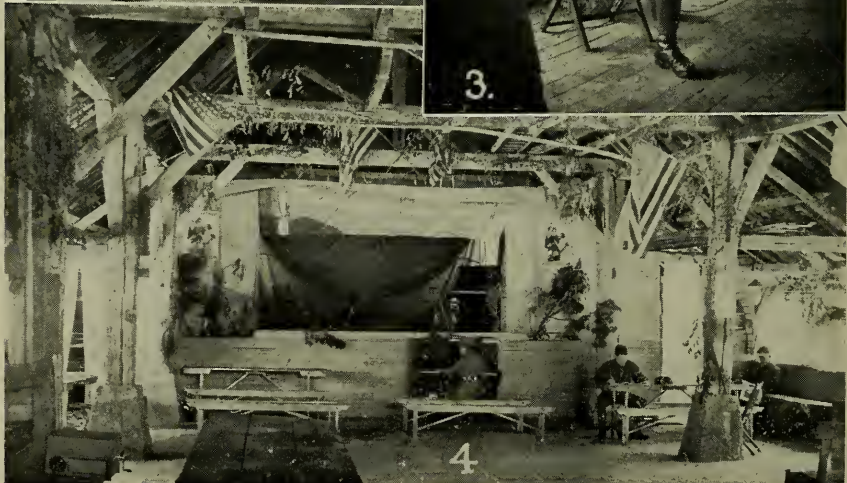
THE CONNERRE section was successively occupied by three Divisions, the Twenty-seventh, comprising men from New York State; the Thirty-fifth, the National Guards of Missouri and Kansas; and the Thirty-sixth, also National Guards from Texas and Oklahoma.



THE Twenty-seventh Division occupied the area by far the longest period. It moved from the front about Thanksgiving, and remained until forwarded to Brest in February. As was true of nearly all of the A. E. F. history, in the battle of Waiting to Go Home, these were the darkest and most discouraging days. Then billets were uncomfortable and scarce, mail was deranged, "flu" was raging at home, entertainments and movies were not available in a systematized circuit, the delcos had not arrived, Y. M. C. A. tents were scarce, the rooms rented from the French were discouragingly small and unattractive; in short, the cognac joints had little competition. Eventually four permanent movies were installed in the area, and pictures three times a week at these places were made possible. The first Y. M. C. A. tents came in about Christmas. Not many girls had been sent over here then, and most of the canteens were operated by one man. Difficulties in coördination between the Le Mans office and the outlying districts often resulted in audiences without pictures and pictures without audiences, the latter happening because poor transportation brought the entertainment to the towns after the soldiers had gone to bed. Those were the darkest days of the Connerre area, literally as well as figuratively.

The arrival of the women workers was, as usual, a Red Letter Day of the Division. Women had not been allowed in the British area in which the Twenty-seventh did its fighting, thus one can easily imagine what it meant to the American men to see American women arriving for work among them in their Y. M. C. A. huts.

The Twenty-seventh Division was sent away with the usual chocolate barrage, and the appreciation of the men indicated that much of the hardships and privations of the previous weeks were forgotten in the earnest effort of the "Y" men and women to send them away with this service.



THE MOST UNIQUE "Y" IN LE MANS REGION. OLD FISH MARKET





THE Thirty-fifth Division moved into the area in March and remained there three weeks. Although canteens operated for the Twenty-seventh were promptly reopened and new ones added wherever possible the question of entertainment was still a staggering one, since billeting space for Y. M. C. A. as well as the men's sleeping quarters, and the problem of transportation was still unsolved. Pitifully inadequate as were the efforts of the Cinema Department to entertain the men, the soldiers hungrily seized upon everything that was offered. Often when no room large enough to accommodate a movie show could be secured, the pictures were thrown on a screen nailed to some building in the Town Square and the boys stood out in the open rain and sleet, eager spectators of the silent drama depicting scenes and people back home. Often the reels were broken, and the crowds of men must wait while they were mended, only to be run another few turns, and then another break. And still the audience stood patiently through to the end of the picture.

Athletic supplies were inadequate, too, but they were passed out to the best advantage possible, and truly served a splendid purpose.

A real service possible by the Y. M. C. A. to this Division was the cashing of the French money of the soldiers into American at 5.15 francs per dollar, as the Army had made no arrangements at that time for the exchanging of French money.

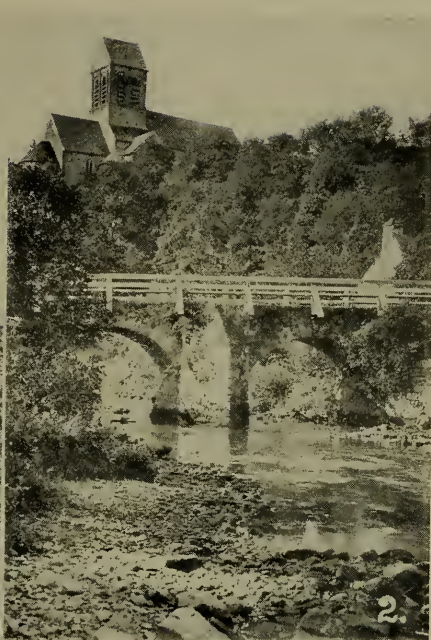
Toward the close of the stay of the Thirty-fifth Division, appreciable quantities of Y. M. C. A. equipment had begun to arrive. Pianos became more plentiful, Victrolas and records, canteen equipment, sheet music, indoor athletic stuff, books and magazines, etc., made life in the Connerre area much more livable to the soldier than when the Twenty-seventh Division was in the same area, or indeed when the Thirty-fifth was in its own winter quarters in Northeastern France.



**T**HE Thirty-sixth Division moved into the Connerre area in early May, and was distributed to thirty-nine small towns, all of which were touched by the Y. M. C. A. The Thirty-sixth brought its own personnel of 21 women and 18 men, and despite the fact that the area had been salvaged, (since the Thirty-sixth had been assigned to another quarter originally), the Y. M. C. A. speedily furnished an incredible amount of chocolate, canteen equipment, lemonade ingredients, delcos, pianos, Victrolas, outdoor games, and the things which go to make a "Y" hut.

The Thirty-sixth Division remained in the Le Mans area for about ten days, and the two biggest features of the stay were the chocolate barrages put over by the "Y" Connerre area secretaries, upon the arrival of the Division and the chocolate and lemonade served at the different entraining points by the Division personnel with the assistance of the rolling canteen personnel of Connerre at the departure of the Division. The energy and generosity of the Y. M. C. A. upon these occasions will long be remembered by the soldiers of Texas and Oklahoma.

Entertainment provided during one week while the Thirty-fifth Division was in the area showed that contact was made with 26 of the 36 points where the men were billeted. At most of the points there was something going on every night. During the week three entertainment companies and one mobile cinema outfit were under the direction of the "Y" secretary and gave entertainments each night. Five other companies gave entertainments on one or more nights each week and six stationery cinema outfits were kept supplied with film programs which were used on nights when other forms of entertainment could not be provided. The entertainment office of the Army, Lieutenant Myers and the other Army officers heartily coöperated with the "Y" secretary in putting over these entertainments.



AT MONTFORT

1. Chateau at Vitre. 2. Saint Ceneri Near Ballon. 3. Two Bluebirds in a Typical Village Street. 4. Village Scene. 5. Roadside Scene

## LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

MAJOR S. D. RIDINGS, commanding the 132nd Machine Gun Battalion of the Thirty-sixth Division, in token of appreciation of the excellent service which the Y. M. C. A. put over with his outfit, made this significant statement in a letter addressed to C. C. Stewart, "Y" secretary, before the departure of the Division for home:

"I wish at this time to make a written expression for the members of the 132nd Machine Gun Battalion and myself of your (the Y. M. C. A.) service with us. It is with heartfelt appreciation that I thank you for your work and I can conscientiously say that you have done more to maintain and sustain the high morale of this Battalion than anyone else. We thank you, one and all, for your personal work and we wish you Godspeed on your return to America.

"S. D. RIDINGS,  
"Major, 132nd M. G. Bn."

Franklin L. Winter, First Lieutenant, Chaplain, U. S. A., wrote the following frank letter to the Divisional Y. M. C. A. secretary of the Thirty-fifth Division under date of March 30:

"Knowing that there is considerable adverse criticism of the Y. M. C. A. in the Thirty-fifth Division, I wish, in all fairness, to supply you with the following list of benefits that the 128th Machine Gun Battalion, Thirty-fifth Division, has received from the Y. M. C. A. in France, between November 13, 1918, and March 30th, 1919. Everyone of these benefits has come under my personal observation. If you wish to use this testimony to support the fact that the Y. M. C. A. has been of value to the 128th M. G. Bn. you are free to do so.

"Between the dates specified the Battalion has almost continually had an abundant supply of writing paper and envelopes, 200 library books, about 300 magazines, many religious booklets, enough New Testaments to supply the demand, 25 hymn books for church services, 30 pieces of sheet music for the piano and the complete orchestration of six songs, and the music for four quartettes.

"About December 21, 1918, each man received, as a Christmas gift, bar chocolate, pipe tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

"The Battalion has had almost all of the athletic material it has needed in the shape of boxing gloves, footballs, volleyballs, indoor baseballs, basketballs, volleyball net, ball bats, and rule books.

"In the line of amusement, the Battalion has had six entertainment groups and seven moving picture performances.



"When leaving the Commercy area, just before entraining, the Battalion was served with hot cocoa and cookies without charge; and upon arriving at Tresson hot cocoa, cookies and cigarettes were served without charge.

"Also the Y. M. C. A. has been of great service in the exchange of American money and paper francs of other departments than the Battalion was in at the time and cashing of cheques and post office money orders. The cheques and post office money orders cashed amounted to at least 8,000 francs.

"Possibly the greatest service the Y. M. C. A. has rendered our Battalion has been in canteen supplies. During the time specified, I have organized and managed a canteen for the Battalion, and have receipted bills to show that I purchased supplies from the Y. M. C. A. to the amount of 28,255.80 francs. Most of these supplies were absolutely unobtainable from the sales commissaries. Also, the Y. M. C. A. furnished me liberal credit; and it is a fact that had it not been for this credit it would have been almost impossible to maintain the canteen.

"If I am given an opportunity to testify in the investigation of welfare organizations in the Thirty-fifth Division, the above is the evidence I shall offer regarding the benefits of the Y. M. C. A. to the 128th M. G. Bn. There are also other benefits which I have had personally, but which are in no way connected with the Battalion.

"Sincerely yours,

"(Signed) FRANKLIN L. WINTER,

First Lt. Chaplain, U. S. Army.

"P. S.: My connection with the 128th M. G. Bn. began on November 11, 1918."



SOUTHWEST AREA  
LA SUZE HEADQUARTERS  
PERSONNEL

HORACE M. BING.....	<i>Area Supervisor</i>
OLIVER W. RHODES.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
J. F. D. HOUCK.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
CHARLES D. BRINDLE.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
WHITFIELD ROGERS.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
W. F. GEISSMAN.....	<i>Asst. Athletic Secretary</i>
JAMES A. PATTILLO.....	<i>Accountant</i>
SHIRLEY E. HARVORT.....	<i>Activities Secretary</i>
JOHN F. ULLOM.....	<i>Y. M. C. A. Mess</i>

SEVENTY-SEVENTH DIVISION  
PERSONNEL

ALFRED T. MORRILL.....	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
F. W. GARLOUGH.....	<i>Business Secretary</i>
C. B. SPEER.....	<i>Associate Business Secretary</i>
A. B. COPE.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
W. J. BRAMAN.....	<i>Assistant Educational Secretary</i>
C. B. FISH.....	<i>Warehouse Manager</i>
A. L. GODFREY.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
F. E. HENDERSON.....	<i>Accountant</i>
THOS. KELLEY.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
ALVA L. LONG.....	<i>Cashier</i>
LEROY NICHOLS.....	<i>Educational Secretary</i>
R. E. SPRINGETT.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
DAN TOBEY.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
E. B. JACK.....	<i>Entertainment Secretary</i>
H. H. TODD.....	<i>Religious Secretary</i>
HARRY DANGERFIELD.....	<i>Associate Business Secretary</i>
H. WILLIAMS.....	<i>Athletic Secretary</i>
E. T. PACA.....	<i>Secretary</i>
O. L. BOWEN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. J. WEIR.....	<i>Secretary</i>
HARRY HALFACRE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. J. CLARK.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. L. THOMPSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. A. STIMSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
F. M. BELDEN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
J. C. RUGG.....	<i>Secretary</i>

S. R. LELAND.....	<i>Secretary</i>
L. C. HAYES.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. W. BLAIR.....	<i>Secretary</i>
PERCY NEWBERRY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. G. GILMER.....	<i>Transportation</i>
ELIZABETH WOOD.....	<i>Women's Work Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Marjorie Tompkins	Mary Weeks
Elizabeth Hazelhurst	Leonore Flansburg
Helen Hazelhurst	Julia Fulton
Julia Fulton	Frances Jones
R. Nell Blodgett	Mary Belle Small
Natalie Turner	Tevan J. Bowman

EIGHTY-EIGHTH DIVISION  
PERSONNEL

ALFRED UPTON.....	<i>Divisional Secretary</i>
LEIGH L. BROWN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
R. B. VAN WINKLE.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. H. GREEN.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
BRUCE WRIGHT.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
WM. VENNART.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
WESLEY J. WEIR.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
JAMES S. STONE.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
H. L. THOMPSON.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
WM. A. STIMSON.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
C. W. ROGERS.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
ROBT. CAMPBELL.....	<i>Hut Secretary</i>
JAMES ROBERTSON.....	<i>Transportation Secretary</i>
J. E. CHAMBERS.....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. E. DUDDLES.....	<i>Secretary</i>
A. E. LYBELT.....	<i>Secretary</i>
F. MILLER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
BERT E. MITCHNER.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. Y. MORGAN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
F. B. REESE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
R. R. RICHARDSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
FLOYD E. RISLEY.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. P. SAVAGE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
F. T. STEELE.....	<i>Secretary</i>
PAUL S. STRONG.....	<i>Secretary</i>

J. W. STREET.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. C. BARDEN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
H. H. GREEN.....	<i>Secretary</i>
W. B. JACKSON.....	<i>Secretary</i>
C. G. TALCOTT.....	<i>Secretary</i>

## CANTEEN WORKERS

Gertrude Kirk	Frances Herring
Abbie Evans	Luida K. Miller
Elsie Geitz	Leila Nelson
Mary A. Carroll	Katherine Terrill
Lucille Watters	Sara E. Buck
Alice Logan	Esther Dunshee
Mary Paxton	Margaret Reid
Anna Blanton	Mildred Terrett
Elizabeth Wood	Mave C. Olds
Virginia Gogswell	Ruth Lindsay
Imogene Hart	Nellie Beach
Edith K. O. Clark	Nelle Blodgett



IN CONSIDERING the operation of the Y. M. C. A. work in La Suze area, it should be remembered that like others of the Le Mans region, first, the troops served here were in transit; each organization stayed only a short time, rendering impossible the building up of any sort of permanent work. In many cases an outfit was no sooner located than it received orders to pull up stakes and go. Ask any soldier, officer or enlisted man, how much work moving involves, then remember that at moving time of troops, the Y. M. C. A. work is nearly doubled. Second, the irregular numbers of men and divisions often meant that one full Division overflowed into another area. Especially is this a feature of La Suze history, and with division headquarters operating in another area as was often the case, the Y. M. C. A. work was much more inconvenient. For instance, the Fifth Army Corps Headquarters stopped in the town of La Suze one week during the stay of the Seventy-seventh; units of the Fifty-second Pioneer Infantry, also attached to the Seventy-seventh, occupied the northern part of the area for a short space of time; portions of the Twenty-sixth Division overflowed from the Ecommoy area into the town of Roize, Spay, Fille, Faulletoute and Guecelord during March, and left ahead of the Seventy-seventh; and casual units of the Eighty-ninth and Ninetieth Divisions touched the area at several points, as did other small units not remembered.



Prior to the signing of the Armistice there were no "Y" activities in the La Suze country, although the area was heavily occupied by troops. The first "Y" hut was located at La Suze late in November, in charge of Mr. Moore. This consisted of a small canteen and writing room. When the Le Mans region was decided upon as the A. E. C., the La Suze area came into existence with La Suze, a town of 3000 population as headquarters and center of activities. Soldiers of the Seventy-seventh Division filled every village in the surrounding country, billeted in houses, barns, tents, sheds or any other place that could be called a billet.

The more comprehensive work of the Association was begun early in January with F. J. McIntosh of St. Louis, Mo., installed as secretary. Beginning with the one hut at La Suze, he soon had located "Y" quarters at thirteen different points, sometimes under the supervision of a secretary, sometimes with huts in charge of Army details. That these men converted impossible little holes-in-the-wall into fairly comfortable cozy homes for the lonely soldier where he could come at all times and read, write and have fellowship with the other fellows and a friendly word and smile from an interested secretary, with occasionally a concert or some form of entertainment, is probably the worst that can be said of their efforts.

By February three girls had come to work in the area. At the canteens turned over to them they had soon, with bits of junk—curtains for the windows and some well placed decorations—given the place the touch of home, to which was added that cheery word and smile, no matter how long the hours or how weary the body, that made the "Y" one bright spot in the dull, waiting life of the restless Yank. At places where there were no canteens, the Hill-Roberts-Geitz combination—the three "Y" girls—visited often, serving hot chocolate, cookies and fudge, and dispensing good cheer in general as only this trio could do. When not on hut duty these girls were always visiting out of the way places or trying to borrow girls for dances, etc. And interesting these dances were—hundreds of men to dance with some half-dozen girls. One dance at a famous old chateau near Courcelles for the Seventy-seventh Division men is worth mentioning; also, another at Etina in March for the Fifty-second Pioneer Infantry boys, where the music was furnished by a baby organ and two accordians, which afforded great amusement for the dancers and the lookers-on. By and by other girls were sent to the area and the work became proportionately more satisfactory to the men.

One by one new huts were opened up or "created" and the family of secretaries grew. At Holding Camp, for instance, a gloomy, corrugated iron barracks with no floor was transferred into one of the most attractive and completely appointed huts in the area. The inside was painted, the floor graded, a stage with a roll curtain and removable wings built, allowing space for boxing bouts and other athletic shows, a systematically arranged canteen installed, a lounge and reading room furnished with wicker furniture, a comfortable kitchen, delco plant for lights and movies installed, piano, Victrola and stringed instruments secured after much persistence—and the Aladdin lamp stunt was accomplished. The slogan of the hut was—"something doing every night"—and it was carried out even if the local talent had to be used; indeed, some of the affairs put on by the soldiers themselves were the best yet. A notable instance was the writing, staging, costuming, and acting of "Oh! Oh! Mademoiselle," a regular musical comedy put on by the members of the 304 F. A. of the Seventy-seventh Division, and run for a week to packed houses. The play was written and directed by Sergeant Hamp of New York City and the music compared very favorably with many of the shows put on in the States.

The canteen just described was typical in a more or less degree of others in the area, whose success was due to the untiring efforts of the secretaries and the "Y" girls, to the splendid spirit of the men themselves, and the hearty coöperation of the officers. The Seventy-seventh Division boys were a live bunch, and there was action all the time they were in the area. Being largely from the metropolis of Yank Land, they lived amidst bright lights and big doings, and no soft-soap stuff would hold them a minute. Therefore, it put every secretary on his mettle to interest and entertain them. This was especially true of the religious work where it took a real man with a vital message and straight-forward delivery to keep his audience from walking out. This was also true with the entertainment end of the game.

From the athletic standpoint the Seventy-seventh Division was probably one of the best organized outfits in the A. E. F. and large credit for this should go to their officers, who coöperated magnificently with the "Y" men to put this part of the program across. Notable track meets, mass play events, football and baseball games kept the men busy with something they liked to do, oftentimes this line of activity being substituted for drill. It all culminated in a great victory for the Seventy-seventh at the Le Mans Meet of March 27-29, in which all Divisions in the A. E. C. participated.

The happiest hour of their stay was when the Seventy-seventh shouldered their packs and marched to the train that would carry them back to the "old girl with a lamp in her hand," whose image they so proudly wore on their shoulders, and April 20 saw the Seventy-seventh all gone from the La Suze area.

After the Seventy-seventh several casual outfits, already mentioned, flowed through the La Suze area; then for a time no other troops moved in and the "Y" got a breathing spell, the only men to serve being the permanent outfit—standbys and friends of long standing, coöperation and comradeship—such as the R. R. & C. outfits, Sub-Deport No. 7, 110th Hospital Corps, 418 Telegraph Battalion, 370 Baking Company, and units of the 21st Engineers, 208th, 392nd, 255th, and 282nd Military Police Trains.

Orders came out to close the area, the permanent outfits being attached to a neighboring area; the "Y" personnel left, many of the huts were closed and the contents salvaged, when suddenly the order was rescinded and the area enlarged to take in parts of the Ecommoy and Sable areas. The 88th Division moved in. This was the only entire Division which ever occupied the La Suze area and it caught the "Y" the least prepared to handle the situation of any time since the work was fairly launched. Divisional Secretary hurriedly started the necessary machinery rolling for receiving the incoming troops. Huts that were closed and salvaged were reopened where releases had not been given up; new places were secured where possible; rolling delco and picture machines arranged for; and an entertainment center located at headquarters and other things done to make the "Y" useful to the soldier. The arrival of Bing, with the Eighty-eighth's corps of secretaries, put the business on the hum. The beautiful valley of the Sarthe was just bursting into the height of its spring-time glory, which fact had a tremendous psychological effect on the men and the officers of the Eighty-eighth Division. They declared with one accord that they had taken a new lease on life after the grouch rut naturally inflicted by the muddy camp of the unsightly Gondicourt country where they had been stuck for six months.

Banners displaying the word "Welcome," with the clover leaf, the Division emblem, on either side were placed over the doors of each "Y" hut, practically every man was served with hot drinks and cookies and in some cases sandwiches on their arrival; a comprehensive entertainment, religious and athletic programme put on immediately with

the arrival of each unit. Open air religious meetings were thronged, movies thrown on an improvised screen—side of building or tent—some open plot of ground, from a machine in a truck “juiced” by a delco along side of it; baseball games galore—with equipment brought along or rushed out to each unit as needed, and worlds of informal games started; rolling canteens with hot chocolate or lemonade and cookies manned by honest-to-goodness, cheerful American girls visiting the boys billeted in isolated chateaus on picturesque plateaux where kings and nobles had frequented centuries ago—all combined to make the stay a happy one. The Eighty-eighth were a well-organized lot of real, red-blooded, appreciative Western American fellows. The “Y” personnel with the outfits, too, were all on the job, doing a good work, having and generating the true Eighty-eighth spirit.

For a few days the area was practically empty and then by thousands came various and sundry units of the S. O. S. on their way home, and rested here for a week or ten days, more were now in the area at one time than at any period of its history. Every village was filled to the crowded limit and new places “opened,” many little impromptu camps were hurriedly erected and troops stationed there. Every department was at its height of activity. The Entertainment Department sent out the S. O. S. call to Le Mans for help and they responded with additional personnel, more portable movies, new variety of entertainers, equipment and everything available for use to interest the men. Sing-song leaders gathered great throngs of doughboys in the public squares of villages, and with a “Y” girl sitting on the footboard of a Ford pumping and playing the tiny but powerful lunged folding organ, another one with a winsome smile, sweet voice and graceful wand, led them in singing their favorite songs. Often these songs would precede a lecture or sermon by an accompanying “Y” man, and sometimes they would furnish the evening’s entertainment. Daily papers and at times magazines were carried to every part in the area every day, the record being broken one day when the two Fords delivered 2800 Paris papers of current date to 30 points by 5:00 o’clock—giving the men the day’s news while it was hot. More movie and entertainment groups were doing service at this time than at any previous period and more athletic events—principally the summer games—baseball and more equipment in use.

With the departure of the S. O. S. units the work of the area came to a close and the order to salvage the area on June 12 and this time it was not rescinded; the last of the “Y” personnel leaving June 15.





1. Officers' Dance at Hotel De Paris. 2. Fourth of July Felicitations to Mademoiselle Beaumont, Great Great Grand Daughter of General La Fayette. 3. Sight Seeing Party in Le Mans

## SECTION 4.

## COMMENDATORIES

THE following excerpts from letters of commendation from Military authorities are here given in addition to those already quoted elsewhere in the summary as further demonstrating the satisfactory relationship that existed.

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From: Geo. S. Simonds, Brig. Gen. U. S. Army, Commanding A. E. C.  
To: Regional Director, Y. M. C. A., July 1, 1919.

1. Upon the breaking up of these Headquarters and the closing of this office I desire to make of record my high appreciation of the devoted and efficient service you, as the present head of the Y. M. C. A. here, and your predecessors have given to the American Embarkation Center.

2. The work accomplished by your organization has been characterized by excellent organization, efficient operation and satisfactory results. This has been in a large measure due to the cordial coöperation of your organization with the military authorities and the earnest efforts of your personnel, and the highest credit is due to those who have participated.

3. Will you please express to those who have assisted you the gratitude and satisfaction the military authorities feel for the assistance they have rendered the American Embarkation Center in the accomplishment of its work. Particularly to the women of your organization I would like you to deliver a message of appreciation and gratitude for what they have done. The long hours they have toiled, the earnestness of their efforts, together with the inspiration of their presence, has all been in keeping with the traditions of our American womanhood and is an exemplification of the spirit of the A. E. F. which has made its success a thing of which every American should be proud.

4. To you personally and to your organization I extend the thanks of the military authorities and their congratulations upon the success of your undertakings.

GEORGE S. SIMONDS,  
Brig. Gen. U. S. Army Commanding.

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American Embarkation Center, Welfare Office, June 20, 1919.

MY DEAR MR. FERRIS:

It is with a great deal of personal regret that I leave the American Embarkation Center and more especially on account of the termination of our official relations.

During my term of duty as Chief Welfare Officer at the American Embarkation Center we have all noted the efficiency and the business-like management of the Y. M. C. A., under your administration, causing the most favorable comment on the part of the Commanding General and the officers and enlisted men of the United States Army, who have been so faithfully served by the Y. M. C. A.

Both the United States Army and the Y. M. C. A. have been most fortunate in having had you as the Regional Director of the Y. M. C. A. during the critical period in which 500,000 American troops have passed through this Embarkation Center en route to the United States.

Trusting that Fate may be so kind as to permit us to serve together again sometime in the near future, I am,

Very cordially yours,

(Signed) F. B. HENNESSY,

Col. F. A., U. S. A., Chief Welfare Officer.

Mr. O. L. Ferris, Regional Director, Y. M. C. A., Le Mans.

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From: Chief Welfare Officer, A. E. C.

To: Regional Director, Y. M. C. A.

Subject: Maud McDowell Koyle.

Mrs. Kyle has supervised many complex problems regarding the care, distribution and performance of duty of more than 450 Y. M. C. A. women workers throughout the American Embarkation Center in such an efficient manner as to cause many complimentary remarks by visiting officials of high rank and it is believed that a generous portion of the success attained by the Y. M. C. A. was due directly to the inspiration and influence of Mrs. Koyle.

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From: Chief Welfare Officer, A. E. C.

To: Regional Director, Y. M. C. A.

Subject: Mrs. Tait.

Many thousands of weary soldiers who have reached Le Mans during the "wee small hours" have been entertained and comforted by the personnel on duty at the "Central 'Y' Hut."

Mrs. Tait deserves special credit for the inauguration and maintenance of the sight-seeing trips in Le Mans and vicinity, which have been of great educational value to many of our soldiers.

Mrs. Tait is enshrined in the hearts of many American soldiers, who have benefited by the most efficient administration of the "Central 'Y' Hut."

From: Chief Welfare Officer, A. E. C.

To: Regional Director, Y. M. C. A.

Subject: Mrs. Warden.

On behalf of the Commanding General and all the officers and the enlisted men of the American Embarkation Center, it is desired to express their appreciation of the unusually efficient administration of the "Y. D. Hut" since Mrs. Warden has been in charge.

The whole atmosphere has changed since Mrs. Warden took charge with the result that many thousands of soldiers have considered it as a "little corner of home" and the place she has won in the hearts of the enlisted men will survive long after other memories of the A. E. F. are forgotten.

It is requested that an official copy of this letter be forwarded to your Paris Headquarters for transmission to Mrs. Warden.

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June 15, 1919.

From: Chief Welfare Officer, A. E. C.

To: Regional Director, Y. M. C. A.

Subject: Miss Honore McNamara.

Your special attention is invited to the unusually efficient and faithful performance of duty of Miss Honore McNamara, your Y. M. C. A. representative who had charge of the two most difficult and important welfare propositions with which the undersigned is acquainted, viz, the S. O. S. Athletic Championship on May 2, 3, and 4; and the A. E. C. County Fair on May 29, 30, 31, June 1.

Miss McNamara was directly responsible for the great success of these two important Y. M. C. A. Welfare propositions and is entitled to the highest commendation for the manner in which she organized and maintained the Welfare organization which resulted in the happiness and contentment of many thousands of members of the United States Army.

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June 21, 1919.

From: Chief Welfare Officer, A. E. C.

To: Regional Director, Y. M. C. A.

Subject: Miss Blanche Grant.

It is desired to express the appreciation of the Commanding General and all the officers and enlisted men of the American Embarkation Center of the efforts of Miss Grant, who has been so successful in the artistic decoration of the various Y. M. C. A. huts scattered throughout the American Embarkation Center.



As a result of the efforts of Miss Grant the Y. M. C. A. huts in the American Embarkation Center have proved more attractive than any others of the A. E. F.

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From: Chief Welfare Officer, A. E. C.

To: Young Men's Christian Association.

During nearly 18 months' service in the A. E. F. it has been the good fortune of the undersigned to have been thrown in close contact with your organization in different parts of France, and I can cheerfully say that the services rendered by your organization throughout the S. O. S. Championship were distinguished by most efficient administration, which resulted in the greatest happiness and contentment of many thousands of soldiers who enjoyed your hospitality during the period, May 2, 3 and 4, 1919.

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From: Chief Welfare Officer, A. E. C.

To: Young Men's Christian Association.

In the name of the Commanding General it is desired to express the appreciation of the members of the United States Army, who were so handsomely entertained by the Young Men's Christian Association during the A. E. C. County Fair and Race Meet, held at La Ferte-Bernard, May 29, and at Le Mans, May 30, 31 and June 1.

The installation of your Welfare activities, upon the dates in question, have been pronounced by visiting officers as the most complete they have ever seen in France.

Due to such intelligent coöperation by the Young Men's Christian Association the morale of our Army has been maintained to a high degree during its presence in the American Embarkation Center, while preparing for embarkation to the United States.

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May 11, 1919.

From: Commanding General Fifty-fourth Artillery Brigade.

To: Miss Betty Simonton and Miss Sally Simonton.

It has been a real pleasure to have had you with us, and you have added enormously to the contentment of officers and men by your cheerful and buoyant disposition and by your manifest desire to assist anywhere that your services would be of the most benefit.

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From: Chief of Staff, A. E. C.

To: A. G. Bookwalter, Regional Director, Y. M. C. A.

1. Upon severing your official connections with these Headquarters

I desire to express to you my appreciation of the highly creditable and efficient character of your work and the work of your organization in this matter.

2. The character of the problems involved in preparing the large number of troops which have passed through this Center for return to their homes and civil pursuits has been such that your organization has had opportunity to fulfill to the highest degree the functions for which it was intended.

3. The cordial coöperation you have always given the military authorities, the earnest and faithful work performed, and the efficient results produced are worthy of commendation and emulation. It is my desire that you know of our appreciation of the work of the Y. M. C. A., and I am pleased to make it of record at these Headquarters.

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May 17, 1919

From: Chief of Staff, Thirty-sixth Division.

To: Commanding General, A. E. C.

Welfare work in the Thirty-sixth Division during the stay of that organization in the Embarkation Area, I wish to thank you in behalf of the Commanding General and of the members of the Thirty-sixth Division for the excellent work accomplished. With those who have had the opportunity to observe the effects of this welfare work, there can be no question as to its benefits.

The entertainments furnished have been of excellent character, the campaign having in view the continuance of athletic work while in this area and the many other little things done along this line have resulted in keeping thousands of the men of this Division entertained and has had excellent beneficial results on them all around.

The entire Division leaves this area with the kindest feelings for the efforts made in its behalf.

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From: Charles Keller, Col., 317 Inf.

To: Mr. E. C. Carter, Y. M. C. A.

Subject: Warren J. McLaughlin.

By his untiring energy, coördination and cheerful business-like manner, he has so firmly established within the circle of respect, admiration and friendship of all officers and men of this regiment, that he has clearly become identified with the spirit and life of the regiment, to such an extent that he is now accompanying us on our return to the States.

From: Lieutenant Marcum.

To: Y. M. C. A.

Subject: Chas. E. Lenon.

It would be impossible to arrive at a full appreciation of services Mr. Lenon, Y. M. C. A. secretary, has rendered, both to the officers and men, while stationed at Spur Camp. He was always first to greet new arrivals with open hospitality; he literally gave his time and attention, whether to the arranging of public entertainments, or to the giving of kindly counsel; he exhausted the recourse of the organization he represents for the comfort and advantages of the men, whom he seemed to consider his personal charges. During his stay, the population of the camp increased from a few hundred to several thousand, necessitating the opening, under his direction, of two other huts and under this increased work, he was indefatigable, sacrificing his personal convenience and comfort to the service of the men.

It can be truthfully said that no man has done more to convince our men of the altruism and sincerity of purpose of the Y. M. C. A. than has he and every officer and every man in this camp will feel a personal loss at his transfer.

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From: Commanding Officer, 132 Machine Gun Battalion.

To: C. C. Stewart, Y. M. C. A.

You have labored faithfully and untiringly at your work, striving to satisfy every whim and desire of the members of this organization, and I can say, at this time as I look back over your work, that you have succeeded eminently.

I wish, at this time, to make a written expression for the members of the 132nd Machine Gun Battalion and myself of your service with us. It is with heartfelt appreciation that I thank you for your work and I can conscientiously say that you have done more to maintain and sustain the high morale of this Battalion than anyone else. We thank you, one and all, for your personal work and we wish you Godspeed on your return to America.

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May 9, 1919.

From: Geo. P. Hawes, Colonel, U. S. A.

To: Mr. M. W. Coates, Y. M. C. A.

This command leaves Chateau du Loir, after a stay in the area of over a month, tomorrow, May 10, and before leaving I desire to express to you and Mr. Dickerson my appreciation, as well as that of

the individuals of the command, for your many kindnesses and courtesies throughout our stay here. You have both worked conscientiously and hard and have done much to make pleasant a very trying period in the history of this command.

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From: Wm. J. Buck, Major, M. C., U. S. A., Commanding.

To: Y. M. C. A.

This is to certify that W. A. Billings, Y. M. C. A., has been at this hospital since March 19, and has rendered valuable service to patients and enlisted men of this hospital. His efforts have been untiring and his genuine interest and devotion has won the admiration and hearts of those men.

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From: Commandant d'armees de la Place de la Fleche.

To: Monsieur S. Bruce Wright, Y. M. C. A.

Let me tell you how we admired the wonderful organization of the Y. M. C. A. The taste with which the hall was kept up. You are leaving; you will soon be very far away, but believe me, we shall never forget the Y. M. C. A., and its splendid directors; and if some day the hazards of time should bring you here again, be assured that you shall always find friends here.

I am proud of the honor of being able to express to you my gratitude and to assure you that the troops of La Fleche will never forget the stay of the American soldiers in La Fleche.

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From: W. Paul Mobley, Divisional Secretary, Eighty-first Division.

To: Regional Director, Y. M. C. A., Le Mans.

We feel that nothing has been left undone by you and your able workers to make our stay here just as pleasant as it could possibly be.

I am sure I express the sentiment of the Y. M. C. A. men and women as we have met here.

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#### FAMILIAR FIGURES

1. Big Joe, Transportation Chief, and the Little Grant of Forwarding Camp Arguing Over Disposition of a Camionette. 2. The Ice Cream Kid at Le Mans Plant. 3. Music Hath Charms. 4. French Widow and Orphans. 5. American Machinery, but French Operators

# Roster of the Y. M. C. A. Personnel in the Le Mans Area

## WOMEN PERSONNEL

ADAMS, LUELLA M.	Cresco, Pa.
ALLEN, MARIE	28 Beach Street, East Orange, N. J.
ALLEN, MARTHA	Arlington, Iowa
AMOS, MRS. JESSIE	817 Sheridan Road, Chicago, Ill.
ANDERSON, HELEN	Colorado Springs, Colo.
ARNOLD, BETTY	Wartrace, Tenn.
ARNOLD, DOROTHY TREAT	465 State Street, Albany, N. Y.
ARNOLD, S. ELIZABETH	107 Ardmore Avenue, Ardmore, Pa.
ARTHUR, MARY ARGALL	385 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.
BACON, AGNES LATIMER	2316 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md.
BAIRD, MARGARET N.	212 Scotland Road, South Orange, N. J.
BAKER, FANIDA	Royston, Ga.
BAKER, RACHEL C.	Bola, Pa.
BAKEWELL, EUPHEMIA	Pittsburgh, Pa.
BEACH, NELLIE	Ridgway, Pa.
BEAKES, KATHERINE	133 W. Main Street, Middletown, N. Y.
BEAN, MARGARET	330 Bryn Mawr Road, Cynwyd, Pa.
BECKER, EDITH	260 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.
BEMENT, NORMA MAIE	309 Stewart Avenue, Ithaca, N. Y.
BERRY, DOROTHY	Emmons, Apts., Huntington, W. Va.
BEYER, ELIZABETH	6102 Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
BIDGOOD, LETITIA	810 Argyle Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.
BLACK, IDA McL.	203 Grace Street, Wilmington, N. C.
BLACK, VISTA	323 Grand Building, Atlanta, Ga.
BLACKNEY, FRANCES	Angola, N. Y.
BLANTON, ANNA, WARD BELMONT	Nashville, Tenn.
BLODGETT, RACHAEL NELL	Orleans, Nebr.
BOLWAY, HELEN M.	172 Fourth Street, Oswego, N. Y.
BOOTH, MYRTLE THEADORA	34 W. 28th Street, New York City
BOUVE, GRACE ELIZABETH	80 Harvard Avenue, Brookline, Mass.
BOWMAN, TEVAN J.	Spencer, W. Va.
BRADLEY, HELEN ALDIS	216 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.
BRADSHAW, EUGENIA	Care Chicago Title & Trust Co., Chicago, Ill.
BRADY, GERTRUDE ELIZABETH	158 Mammoth Road, Lowell, Mass.
BRIDGERS, ANNE PRESTON	1306 Hillsboro, Raleigh, N. C.
BRITTINGHAM, ADA S.	133 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
BROOKS, RUTH LOUISE	1617 Dills Street, Burlington, Iowa
BROWN, MABEL D.	608 Spence Street, Marquette, Mich.
BROWN, MARY	504 Peach Tree Street, Atlanta, Ga.
BROWN, PAULINE	17Bronson Place, Toledo, Ohio
BROWNE, ANNE	Vaughan, N. C.
BUCK, EDITH S.	59 Branford, Jamaica, N. Y.
BUCK, SARA E.	343 Plover Street, Sturms Point, Wis.
BUCKLEY, KATHERINE R.	12 West 98th Street, New York City
BURD, MRS. PERCILLA	3130 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Mo.
BUTLER, Mary	925 South 14th Street, St. Joseph, Mo.
BUTTS, M. LUCILE	720 Union Street, Brunswick, Ga.
CADY, BEATRICE	210 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Conn.
CAHOON, ELIZABETH	1332 Wisconsin Street, Racine, Wis.
CAMPBELL, MARJORIE	511 Euclid Avenue, Syracuse N. Y.
CARNEY, MRS. BERTHA L.	Geneva House, Geneva, N. Y.
CARROLI, ALICE	92 Grand Street, Newburgh, N. Y.

CARRELL, HOPE	22 Wakefield Street, Lewiston, Maine
CARTWRIGHT, MRS. EDNA B.	51 Butler Street, Lawrence, Mass.
CLARK, EDITH K. O.	4 Mission Apts., Cheyenne, Wyo.
CLARK, SUSAN	6810 Thomas Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa.
CLARKE, LOUISE C.	703 Lake Avenue, Racine, Wis.
COATES, HELEN MAR.	264 Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Mountain, N. J.
COGSWELL, VIRGINIA	31 Clinton Ave., Jamaica, N. Y.
COMSTOCK, ALICE M.	76 Humboldt Avenue, Providence, R. I.
COOK, CORNELIA	407 Vista Avenue, Portland, Oregon
COOK, ISABELLE B.	342 Spring Street, Portland, Maine
COOK, JANE	1001 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Md.
COOPER, FRANCES H.	5746 Howe Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
CORDINGLEY, HARRIET	1083 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
CORNICK, AMIE	San Angelo, Texas
COUCH, LUCILLE H.	46 South Broadway, Nyack, N. Y.
COURTS, SUE	Care S. W. Stratton, The Farragut, Washington, D. C.
COWLES, KILBOURNE	3846 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
CRANE, CHARLOTTE L.	2918 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
CREECH, FLORA E.	119 E. Edinton St., Raleigh, N. C.
CRAWFORD, CONSTANCE	24 Ridge Road, Summit, N. J.
CROASDALE, DOROTHY	1574 York Street, Denver, Colo.
CULVER, ELIZABETH	303 Washburn Street, Lockport, N. Y.
CURTIS, SARAH THEADORA	106 E. 52nd Street, New York City
DARLINGTON, JOSEPHINE	Great Barrington, Mass.
DAVIDSON, EDYTHE	1602 E. Washington Street, New Castle, Pa.
DAVIDSON, JEAN	Evanston, Ill.
DAYTON, IRENE	2300 Andrews Avenue, N. Y. City
DEAN, MARION	Rome, Ga.
DECK, MAE	604 First Avenue, E., Oskaloosa, Iowa
DEERING MRS, MABEL	Helena, Montana
DELAND, MARY	14 Potter Place, Fairport, N. Y.
DEWITT, IRELINE	4000 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas
DICKINSON, EMMA S.	4236 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.
DICKINSON, ELMIRA E.	Pine Brush, N. Y.
DICKSON, JANET	1060 Hollywood Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
DIVEN, EUGENIA	502 W. Church Street, Elmira, N. Y.
DIXON, ILLA	225 Augusta Street, Greenville, S. C.
DOGGETT, EUNICE	628 East Twenty-sixth Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
DOUGHTY, ANTOINETTE	50 Charles Street, N. Y. City
DUNSHEE, ESTHER A.	925 Chestnut Street, Willmette, Ill.
EILER, MIDRED GRACE	351 S. Rebecca Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
EIS, FLORENCE	134 South Elm Street, Centralia, Ill.
ELLIOT, ADELE	Aldnie Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.
ELLIOTT, ANNA F.	53 Reservoir Street, Cambridge, Mass.
ELLIOTT, JANE C.	Orangeburg, N. Y.
ELLIS, IVAH A.	3923 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
EMERSON, CAROLYN	31 Arlington Street, Rochester, N. Y.
ENDRESS, MARGUERITE	659 Second Avenue, Detroit, Mich.
ENRIGHT, LUCILLE J.	377 Madison Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
ESTE, ELISE	62 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.
ESTEE, HELEN P.	100 Ashland Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.
EUBANK, LOUISE BARTON	Willows, Cal.
EVANS, ABBIE H.	4 Free Street, Camden, Maine
EVANS, META	1725 Tenth Avenue, Huntington, W. Va.
EWEN, HELEN	302 N. Jefferson Street, Saginaw, Mich.
EWING, GRACE	54 West 48th Street, New York City
FAULKNER, CATHERINE	31 Talbot Street, Lowell, Mass.
FAY, ALICE OBER	115 Olympia Place, Seattle, Wash.
FISCUS, EFFIE	200 Washington Avenue, Vandergrift, Pa.
FLANSBURG, ELEANOR	3501 The Pasco, Kansas City, Mo.
FLEMING, MRS. LOUISE W.	Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.



FOWLER, RENA	Farmington, Maine
FRANCIES, MAY	Western Penitentiary, Pittsburgh, Pa.
FRIERSON, MRS. ANNA H.	Athens, Ala.
FRICK, ETHELWYNNE	100 South Church Street, Westchester, Pa.
FRITSCH, SUSAN	5475 Cabanne Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.
FULLERTON, PAULINE	303 West 74th Street, New York City
FULTON, JULIA	Pleasant Valley, Wheeling W. Va.
GAGE, KATHERINE L.	29 Wedonah Street, Boston, Mass.
GARDEN, GERTRUDE	441 Main Street, Wheeling, W. Va.
GARDNER, HARRIET B.	71 Beverly Road, Upper Montclair, N. J.
GARDNER, JANE	Clinton, N. J.
GARRETT, MARY A.	West Holm, Tutford Yak, England
GARVEY, ANNABEL A.	515 Buchanan Street, Topeka, Kansas
GEITZ, ELSIE K.	263 Rich Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
GERNON, AUDREY	195 Washington Street, Norwich, Conn.
GILMOUR, MRS. GERTRUDE	Palisade Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y.
GILSON, MRS. SARA SUMNER	Highland Street, Holliston, Mass.
GITTINGS, ISABELLE	1342 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
GLEASON, MARY E.	145 South Street, Northampton, Mass.
GOETCHIUS, MARY	405 Third Avenue, Rome, Ga.
GOODWIN, MARY F.	Ashland, Va.
GORMLY, ELEANOR	Sewickley, Pa.
GRAHAM, GLADYS	Evanston, Ill.
GRANT, BLANCHE C.	22 Prospect Street, Taunton, Mass.
GREEN, HELEN S.	105 Grape Street, Morrison, Ill.
GREEN, IDA	Dalton, Mass.
GREENE, AMY	21 West Street, Worcester, Mass.
GREENLAW, MRS. KATE O.	Eutaw, Ala.
GRINNELL, MRS. KATHERINE	32 Maple Street, New Bedford, Mass.
GROSS, ESTELLE	620 South George Street, York, Pa.
HAMMETT, ELIZABETH	919 Heberton Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
HAMMOND, JOSEPHINE	427 Center Avenue, Butler, Pa.
HANNA, MARY E.	4934 N. 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
HANSON, HARRIETTE	316 Cumberland Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
HARING, MRS. AUGUSTA	19 West 31st Street, New York City
HART, IMOGENE	5547 Dorchester Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
HATCH, ESTHER	Bryn Mawr Avenue, Cynwyd, Pa.
HATCH, LAURA	36 Bedford Terrace, Northampton, Mass.
HAYES, PAULINE	28 Einhorn Road, Worcester, Mass.
HAYS, FRANCES B.	Jefferson City, Mo.
HAYES, MARION	28 Einhorn Road, Worcester, Mass.
HAYES, SARA E.	Brielle, N. J.
HAZELHURST, ELIZABETH	1021 Greenwood Blvd., Evanston, Ill.
HAZELHURST, HELEN K.	1021 Greenwood Blvd., Evanston, Ill.
HEATH, LURA IDA	R. F. D. No. 5, Monroe, N. C.
HEPFORD, MINERVA	220 Pine Street, Harrisburg, Pa.
HERRING, FRANCES	Natural Bridge, Va.
HIGGINS, RACHEL	41 Mt. Vernon Street, Melrose, Mass.
HILL, MARTHA	1012 N. 12th Street, Fort Smith, Ark.
HILLER, DOROTHY	2921 Washington Street, San Francisco, Cal.
HILP, FREDDIE	405 Elm Street, Reno, Nev.
HINE, ELLEN LOUISE	State and Abbey Streets, Girard, Ohio
HOBBS, MRS. GEORGIA E.	Y. M. C. A., Denver, Colo.
HOLCOMB, MRS. CATHERINE	453 Cedar Street, Manistee, Mich.
HOLMES, KATHERINE R.	24 High Street, Orange, N. J.
HOLMES, MARY LOUISE	24 High Street, Orange, N. J.
HOPKINS, CATHERINE	28 West 12th Street, New York City
HOPKINS, CHARLOTTE	Groton, Mass.
HORTON, AMY	33 West 74th Street, New York City
HOWE, FLORA	Miles City, Mont.
HOWE, RUBY	409 South Union Street, Burlington, Vt.



HOWARD, BESS	Chester, Pa.
HOWELL, BERTHA	Catonsville, Md.
HUBBELL, MARGUERITE	Elgin, Ill.
HUNN, MRS. J. M.	119 Blair Street, Ithaca, N. Y.
INGELSE, PATRE	Boulder, Colo.
IRVINE, MARY AGNES	216 Elysian Ave., Pitsburgh, Pa.
JACKSON, EDITH M.	5835 Circle Ave., Chicago, Ill.
JAMES, ADA G.	330 Columbia Ave., Palmerton, Pa.
JAMESON, HALLIE	1424 N. Fifth Street, Waco, Texas
JASPER, NELL	Fulton, Mo.
JENKINS, MARY B.	Wellesley, Mass.
JOHNSON, CAROLINE C.	87 High Street, Yonkers, N. Y.
JOHNSON, FLORENCE MARY	475 E. Seventh Street, Fulton, N. Y.
JOHNSON, SUSANNE Z.	Weston, Mass.
JOHNSON, MRS. WAYNE	Sheffield, Mass.
JOHNSTON, ESTHER	2328 Broadway, Logansport, Ind.
JONES, KATHERINE	1212 S. 14th St., Springfield, Ill.
JONES, MAY F.	Asheville, N. C.
JONES, WINIFRED N.	Suisun, Cal.
KALEY, MADGE	151 Montgomery Street, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
KEEFE, LOUISE	4625 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, Ill.
KENNEDY, MRS. CORA C.	222 Memorial Ave., Grove City, Pa.
KETCHUM, ELEANOR	West Roxbury, Boston, Mass.
KEYSER, ANNE F.	1121 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Md.
KING, CORA LEE	5257 Westminister Place, St. Louis, Mo.
KING, SARA JOYCE	311 Second Ave., Rome, Ga.
KINSEY, MARTHA	Wyoming, Ohio
KIRK, GERTRUDE H.	Placerville, Cal.
KNOWLES, CYNTHIA	Corinna, Maine
KOUNTZ, FLORIDA S.	516 Wallace Ave., Wilkensburg, Pa.
KOYLE, MRS. MAUD McDOWELL	145 West 12th Street, New York City
KREINHEDER, CHARLOTTE	249 Norwood Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.
KUNZ, KITTY	Delafield, Wis.
KUNZ, JANET	Delafield, Wis.
LAW, MARGARET	5449 Greene Street, Germantown, Pa.
LAW, RUTH	816 N. Weber Street, Colorado Springs, Colo.
LAWTON, WILHELMINA	Cortland, Geneva, N. Y.
LEACH, VIRGINIA	81 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.
LEE, ALINE S.	Westbrook, Conn.
LEE, ANNA E.	Highmore, So. Dak.
LEE, ANNIE	5015 Church Street, Monroe, N. C.
LEONARD, ELEANOR	1729 N. Sixth Street, Harrisburg, Pa.
LESLEY, VICTORIA	1411 North 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
LEWIS, DORA	Moylan, Pa.
LEWIS, MRS. ELISE L.	Large Ave., Hillsdale, N. J.
LINCOLN, MARGARET R.	9 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, Mass.
LIND, MABEL	1723 W. Teoga Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
LINDSAY, MARTHA	56 Eaton Place, East Orange, N. J.
LINDSAY, RUTH	347 Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
LINEHAN, JANET	681 Gholson Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
LOGAN, ALICE	Real Estate Trust Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
LOOMIS, MRS. EFFIE P.	320 W. Grace Street, Richmond, Va.
LOVELL, MARGARET	Pen-y-Bryn, Scranton, Pa.
LUCAS, HELEN	615 Carleton Ave., Portland, Oregon
MACY, MRS. ALICE	20 Seventh Street, New Bedford, Mass.
MACDONALD, LUCY	(No record address)
MAC EACHRON, HARRIET	422 Vermont Street, Waterloo, Iowa
MAC KENZIE, HARRIET	Ypsilanti, Mich.
MAC LAREN, JANE	120 E. Arrellage Street, Santa Barbara, Cal.
MAC LEOD, GWENN	412 W. 20th Street, New York City
MACNAMARA, HONORE	64 St. James Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

McCAGUE, ANNE D.	Pine Road, Sewickly, Pa.
McCAIN, LEODA	804 S. Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
McCLELLAND, RUTH M.	656 N. Prairie Street, Galesburg, Ill.
McCOLLUM, ANNA	R. F. D. No. 3, Durand, Mich.
McCORMACK, EDITH	4522 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo.
McDAVID, THERESA	113 Toy Street, Greenville, S. C.
McDONALD, SARAH	7700 Penn. Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
McGLINCH, ANNE A.	Minto, N. Dak.
McINTYRE, LOUISE	Newman, Ill.
MANN, WINIFRED	8444 120th Street, Richmond Hill, N. Y.
MARTIN, KATHERINE A.	308 Stuyvesant Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
MARTIN, RUTH	5728 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa.
MARVIN, DORIS	(No record address)
MARVIN, GERTRUDE	359 Wyoming Street, Kingston, Pa.
MARSHALL, ELIZABETH	546 Madison Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
MASSEY, CLARA ESTHER	236 S. Massey Street, Watertown, N. Y.
MASSEY, SALLIE LOU	1523 22nd Ave., Meridian, Miss.
MASSIE, MAYO	Lawrenceville, Va.
MERRITT, ELEANOR	2024 Orange Street, Bakersfield, Colo.
MILLER, ANNA	311 Maple Street, Manistie, Mich.
MILLER, LUIDA K.	Stanford, Ky.
MILLER, MRS. MARTHA	Stonington, Conn.
MOLTER, ELLA S.	Excelsior, Minn.
MOORE, MARION SARAH	Avondale, Pa.
MORRIS, CLARA	200 Lexington Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
MORRIS, MARY E.	241 West Eighth Ave., Columbus, Ohio
MORRIS, MAUD E.	Alva, Okla.
MORSE, KATHERINE	"Grey Rocks," Amherst, Mass.
MOSS, EDNA PAULINE	Mainville, Ohio
MOSS, OLIVE M.	1730 Williams Street, Denver, Colo.
MYER, ANNIE	Carthage, Tenn.
MYERS, ELIZABETH PAUL	129 East Tenth Street, New York City
NELSON, LEUIA	63 Scott Street, Monroe, Mich.
NELSON, STELLA E.	220 West Olive Street, Stillwater, Minn.
NEWELL, FRANCES	Wolfe Hall, Denver, Colo.
NUNN, MRS. LAURA J.	3 Bird Street, Dorchester, Boston, Mass.
NUTTER, HARRIET	12 Cornell Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.
O'BRIEN, MARGARET	301 S. Fifth Street, Grand Haven, Mich.
OHMERT, HAZEL	6423 Planada Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
OLDS, MAYE C.	55 Broadway, Tacoma, Wash.
OSBORN, MARY	309 Clark Street, Clarksburg, W. Va.
OTIS, MABEL	10 West 11th Street, New York City
PARKER, ESTHER	Winchester, Mass.
PARK, MISS KATHERINE	Warren, N. H.
PARRY, ANNA M.	24 Estrella Ave., Oakland, Cal.
PATRICK, RUTH	317 S. Grove Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
PATTERSON, EILEEN	412 West 20th Street, New York City
PAXTON, MARY	Roanoke, Va.
PEABODY, MAY E.	Salem, N. H.
PEDRICK, HELEN	Cynwyd, Pa.
PERKINS, FRANCES J.	Seventh Ave., Laurel, Miss.
PIKE, LUCILE PERLEY	164 Kent Street, Brookline, Mass.
PLUMB, ALMA	Fairview, Kan.
PLUME, EMILIE A.	706 West End Ave., New York City
POLLOCK, CHRISTINE	910 South Eighth Street, Fargo, N. D.
POPE, ANNA ELIZABETH	806 Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minn.
POTTER, DOROTHY LOUISE	229 Vine Street, Tyler, Texas
POTTS, MARGARET R.	8 Congress Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
PRATT, C. ELMA	333 Central Park West, New York City
PRICE, KATHERINE G.	124 Main Street, Westerly, R. I.
PRYOR, ESTELLE B.	801 E. Court Street, Flint, Mich.

PUGH, RACHAEL	503 N. Ninth Street, Independence, Kan.
QUAYLE, MRS. THOS. R.	713 South St. John's Ave., Highland Park, Ill.
RANDALL, IVY MAY	1864 Mar Vista Ave., Pasadena, Cal.
REEVE, ALICE L.	39 Oakland Road, Brookline, Mass.
REID, MARGARET	521 South Story Street, Boone, Iowa
RICE, ETHEL F.	2619 James Street, Eastwood, E. Syracuse, N. Y.
RICHARDS, BELL	5806 Howe Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
RICHARDS, IRMA	143 61st Ave., East Duluth, Minn.
RICHMOND, MARJORIE	74 East Main Street, Fredonia, N. Y.
RITCHIE, LILLIAN	Lake-of-the-Isles, Minneapolis, Minn.
ROBERTS, ANNIE M. M.	425 Madison Ave., New York City
ROBERTS, EDITH	8 Tennis Court, Brooklyn, N. Y.
ROBERTS, ESSIE	Fairburn, La.
ROBERTSON, FERNANDE	36 Perry Street, New York City
ROBINSON, HELEN RAYE	1033 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, Ill.
ROBINSON, MARGARET	335 Morris Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
RODGERS, CLAUDINE	626 S. Gore Ave., Webster Groves, Mo.
ROGERS, MILDRED PRESCOTT	14 Brimmer Street, Boston, Mass.
ROPES, PHOEBE	252 Locust Street, Danvers, Mass.
ROSE, MARGUERITE T.	Tuckhoe, N. Y.
ROUNDS, ONA M.	96 South Tenth Street, San Jose, Cal.
ROWSON, JANE M.	464 15th Ave., Patterson, N. J.
RUSSELL, JOSEPHINE	3662 Pine Grove Ave., Chicago, Ill.
SAUNDERS, RUBY	200 E. Deming Street, Roswell, N. Mex.
SAVARESE, LOUISE E.	72 Charlton Street, New York City
SCHIMMELFENG, MARION F.	210 Fourth Street, Warren, Pa.
SCOTT, MARION STURGES	1214 Astor Street, Chicago, Ill.
SCRIVEN, MRS. MARJORIE W.	64 Charlesgate, East Boston, Mass.
SCUDDER, CONSTANCE	4063 Washington Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
SEARS, MISS ANNA	320 W. 47th Street, New York City
SEELEY, MISS M.	304 Clairmont Ave., Detroit, Mich.
SELDEN, DAPHNE	Deep River, Conn.
SEVERENCE, MILDRED	150 Jewett Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
SHARPE, MARY B.	Chambersburg, Pa.
SHELDON, ELEANOR	Free Hall, Normal, Ill.
SHERIDAN, MABEL E.	42 Asbury Street, Rochester, N. Y.
SHERMAN, GEM	Marquette, Mich.
SHIELDS, EFFIE L.	4226 Saline Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
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SHIPPERD, MARJORIE	1212 Jefferson Street, Duluth, Minn.
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SIMONTON, ELIZABETH	Spencer Arms, New York City
SIMONTON, SALLY	Spencer Arms, New York City
SINCLAIR, HELEN	Lysander, N. Y.
SINGER, JANE R.	5463 Penn. Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
SINGLETON, MRS. EMMA G.	530 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
SMALL, MARY BELLE	Main Street, Washington, N. C.
SMALL, RUTH	483 Vista Ave., Portland, Oregon
SMITH, GLADYS	160 Park Ave., Brockport, N. Y.
SMITH, SARA	96 North 18th Street, East Orange, N. J.
SNYDER, ELIZABETH	Ardmore, Pa.
SNYDER, HELEN	11 Bentley Ave., Jersey City, N. J.
SPEAR, HELEN MAHLON	6 William Street, Newark, N. J.
SPENCER, JEANETTE	2123 Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
SPERRY, JULIA	1001 Dewey Ave., Rochester, N. Y.
SPICER, MRS. ALICE	San Diego, Cal.
ST. CLAIR, ELSIE	425 Gilbert St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
STERLING, MRS. MARY H.	La Grange, Ga.
STEWART, MRS. BESSIE	Elizabeth City, N. C.
STEWART, MARGARET ANNA	Hotel Miami, Miami, Okla.

STEWART, REBECCA	152 Dickson Ave., Ben Avon, Pittsburgh, Pa.
STOUP, CLARA E.	638 Fifth Street, Oakmont, Pa.
STOWERS, F. MIRIAM	121 Narcissus Street, West Palm Beach, Fla.
SUAREZ, ERNESTINE	Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
TAIT, MRS. JOHN L.	1914 Summit Street, Columbus, Ohio
TERRETT, MILDRED	Clinton, N. Y.
TERRILL, KATHERINE	Grand Junction, Iowa
THOMPSON, GRACE	2111 De Lancey Place, Philadelphia, Pa.
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TOMPKINS, MARJORIE	Nyack, N. Y.
TORRISON, MARGARET	1745 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Ill.
TOLER, MRS. MAINER HARDIN	590 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta, Ga.
TOM, LUCIA MAE	Runge, Texas
TRAYLOR, MRS. RUTH L.	Hotel Traylor, Allentown, Pa.
TULLER, ELIZABETH	42 West North Ave., Atlanta, Ga.
TURNER, LILLIAN A.	51 Lawshe Street, Atlanta, Ga.
TURNER, NATALIE S.	1201 Sunset Ave., Asbury Park, N. J.
TYSON, PATRICIA	25 Lincoln Street, Glen Ridge, N. J.
UHL, MARGARET	215 South Franklin Street, Wilkes Barre, Pa.
ULLIAN, REBA	152 Franklin Street, New York City
VALENTINE, GERTRUDE (Deceased)	80 Chestnut Street, Albany, N. Y.
VALK, ELLA	137 East 66th Street, New York City
WALDO, BARBARA	Bridgeport, Conn.
WADDEN, MARY	Madison, S. D.
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WALKER, GRACE	61 Valley Road, Montclair, N. J.
WALKER, MAUD WINSTON	1500 Bluff, Wichita Falls, Texas
WARDEN, MRS. SARA	Beaver Road, Sewickley, Pa.
WARD, EDNA M.	2050 East 83rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio
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WEAVER, MYRTLE	Bradford, Ohio
WEEKS, MARY	Babylou, L. I., N. Y.
WELDON, MINNIE	201 California Street, Newton, Mass.
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WESTON, ISABELLE B.	22 Summer Street, Bangor, Maine
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WHILEY, OLIVE PEARL	129 E. Wheeling Street, Lancaster, Ohio
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WILLIAMS, OLIVE	54 Irving Place, Buffalo, N. Y.
WILLIS, REBA	256 East Seventh Street, Colton, Colo.
WILLS, ELIZABETH M.	Gilroy, Cal.
WILCOX, LOUISE	193 Inwood Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J.
WOOD, ELIZABETH A.	Claremont, Cal.
WOOD, GLADYS	195 High Street, Greenfield, Mass.
WOOD, MARGARET	162 Cleveland Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
WOODMAN, HELEN	185 Bailey Street, Lawrence, Mass.
WOODS, DOROTHY L.	1806 Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.
WOOSTER, MISS RUTH	Seymour, Conn.
WRIGHT, ETHEL	Dexter Place, Cincinnati, Ohio
YOUNG, LILLY MAE	Sharon, Wis.



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ACKER, WALTER	Masonic House, Fort Worth, Texas
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ALDER, E. C.	183 Steuben Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
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ANDERSON, J. R.	(No record address)
ANDERSON, J. S.	3210 Arthington Street, Chicago, Ill.
ANDERSON, O.	Hammond, Ind.
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ASHCRAFT, CYRUS W.	501 Wood Ave., Florence, Ala.
ALEXANDER, FRED B.	Crawfordsville, Ind.
ALLEN, LUTHER E.	Aurora, Ill.
ATKINSON, S. D.	Orange, N. J.
ATKINSON, W. D.	Grove City, Ohio
AVERITT, DONALD	(No record address)
BABCOCK, R. W.	600 N. Pine Ave., Chicago, Ill.
BAGGETT, GEO. S.	Liverpool, N. Y.
BAILEY, J. W.	22 Grace Street, Montgomery, Ala.
BAILEY, ORVILLE S.	R. R. No. 6, Morrowville, Kan.
BAKER, O. E.	3025 Leverett Ave., Alton, Ill.
BAKER, H.	10 Erie Street, Oak Park, Ill.
BAKER, THOS.	Spring Valley, N. Y.
BAKER, W. J.	77 Elmont Ave., Port Chester, N. Y.
BALCOM, H. A.	516 West 184th Street, New York City
BALDWIN, ARTHUR C.	Montclair, N. J.
BALES, W. E.	McMinnville, Ore.
BALL, JAMES W.	Logansport, Ind.
BALMOND, F. J.	Greensburg, Pa.
BANKS, E. T.	410 Bank Street, Dayton, Ohio
BARBER, HACKETT	Owensboro, Ky.
BARNES, GEO. J.	The Lenox, 131 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
BARNES, JOHN	2104 Walnut Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa
BARTON, L. S.	817 South Barton Ave., Tulsa, Okla.
BARDEN, H. C.	Attleboro, Mass.
BARNES, ALEX J.	2035 James Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
BASHAM, R. A.	Akron, N. Y.
BASSETT, JOHN	Rush Citv, Minn.
BATSON, ROLAND	10 Adams Street, Medford, Mass.
BATES, ROSS	1800 Stevens Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
BAUMBACH, CHAS. C.	Bryant, S. Dak.
BAYNTUN, G. R.	1114 W. Park Street, Butte, Mont.
BEAL, FRED N.	Walville, Wash.
BECKWITH, FLOYD I.	3355 W. Monroe Street, Chicago, Ill.
BEIDEN, F. M.	Plandome, N. Y.
BELL, HUGH H.	140 Bolmas Ave., San Anselmo, Cal.
BEAVEN, A. W.	52 Burr Street, Rochester, N. Y.
BERNER, PAUL	(No record address)
BERTHIAUME, S. M.	7223 Taft Street, Seattle, Wash.
BICKEL, J. F.	313 S. Washington Street, Taylorville, Ill.
RIDDLE, HOWARD	Philadelphia, Pa.
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BINFORD, DR. B. S.	704 W. North Street, Greenfield, Ind.
BING, H. M.	31 Van Deman Ave., Delaware, Ohio
BINGHAM, GUY M.	Vine Street, Libson, Ohio
BIXLER, ANDREW L.	536 Hanover Street, Carlisle, Pa.

BLACK, JOHN CALVIN.....	R. R. No. 2, Parnassus, Pa.
BLACKMER, J. H.....	638 Platt Street, Toledo, Ohio
BLAIR, H. W.....	Cartage, Mo.
BLOOM, IRVING.....	1143 Tiffany Street, Bronx, New York City
BLUE, A. B.....	Phillipsburg, Kan.
BOGARDUS, HARRY.....	Mansfield, Pa.
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BOWEN, O. L.....	El Paso, Texas
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BOWMAN, H. N.....	Canton, Ohio
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BRANDS, RUSLING S.....	Columbia, N. J.
BRAMAN, W. J.....	Monroe, N. Y.
BRAMMER, OTTO C.....	182 Ditmass Ave., Long Island City, N. Y.
BRANDON, J. C.....	424 North Main Street, Butler, Pa.
BRIDGES, ELLERY N.....	57 Alliance Ave., Rochester, N. Y.
BRIGGS, E. E.....	72 Tracy Street, Buffalo, N. Y.
BRILLHART, D. O.....	1189 Arch Street, Berkeley, Cal.
BRINDLE, CHAS. D.....	95 West First Avenue, Columbus, Ohio
BROTHERS, S. C.....	204 Leroy Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
BROUGH, R. NORMAN.....	53 Westminster Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.
BROUGHER, JAMES W.....	1331 West Fourth Street, Los Angeles, Cal.
BROWN, C. T.....	835 Fletcher Street, Chicago, Ill.
BROWN, F. E.....	1059 27th Street, Des Moines, Iowa
BROWN, HENRY T.....	Lubec, Maine
BROWN, JOHN K.....	12436 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
BROWN, L. L.....	Owasco, N. Y.
BROWN, ARCHIE.....	55 White Street, Red Bank, N. J.
BRUGGERS, J. H.....	R. R. No. 4, Cawker City, Kan.
BULLOCK, M. C.....	51 River Street, Salamanca, N. Y.
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BURD, H. P.....	112 North Seventh Street, Bethlehem, Pa.
BURKHART, FRANK C.....	3108 Marcy Street, Omaha, Neb.
BURRESS, D. T.....	Carroll, Neb.
BURRILL, WM. L.....	207 Eighth Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
BUSH, M. S.....	Portsmouth, Ohio
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CALKINS, LLOYD R.....	Olivet, Kansas
CAMPBELL, JOHN NEIL.....	3104 Lyndale Street, Chicago, Ill.
CAMPBELL, ROBERT.....	Millerton, N. Y.
CANTWELL, C. A.....	331 34th Street, Oakland, Cal.
CARNEGIE, W. P.....	929 Leland Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
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CARLYLE, A. F.....	603 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, Minn.
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CAROTHERS, E. S.....	Concordia, Texas
CARTY, CHAS.....	Bozeman, Mont.
CASSIDY, M. A.....	Ada, Okla.
CASTANIEN, G. W.....	Dodge City, Kan.
CAPPS, J. A.....	Bessemer City, N. C.
CATES, OFFERT.....	Lynchberg, Tenn.
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COCHRAN, FRED	Flats, N. C.
COIT, C. W.	1019 Park Ave., Rochester, N. Y.
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CORNEILSON, J. M.	Pendleton, Oregon
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COULTER, JOHN L.	94 Beverley Ave., Morgantown, W. Va.
COURTWHRIGHT, WM. L.	Larkspur, Cal.
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COX, W. M.	Fairfield, Ill.
COXHEAD, ERNEST	Hearst Bldg., San Francisco, Cal.
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CRONK, W. C.	Beaumont, Cal.
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DODD, JESSE J.	Montclair, N. J.
DONALDSON, C. A.	Columbia, S. C.
DOWNER, S. W.	Downer, N. J.
DRAGOO, ROY R.	Sauk Rapids, Minn.
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FAGALY, ROY	2218 Iowa Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
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FISH, JAS. O.	Little Hocking, Ohio
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FRIEND, THOMAS	Dumbarton, Va.
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YOUTZ, E. F.	Honolulu, Hawaii



## ARMY DETAIL MEN ON DUTY WITH Y. M. C. A., JUNE 1, 1919

Abbott, Robert W., Pvt.  
Adkins, Gordon L., Cook  
Bentzel, Jacob, Cpl.  
Blake, Jacob, Cpl.  
Blake, Edmond, Pvt.  
Branch, John R., Cpl.  
Bridges, Otto G., Pvt.  
Brown, J. R., Cpl.  
Cahalan, Albert, Cpl.  
Corbin, Anton, Sgt. 1cl  
Chandler, James Z., Pvt.  
Clements, Don C., Pvt.  
Cronea, Charles, Pvt.  
Carey, Frank P., Sgt. 1cl  
Deschin, Gustave, Sgt.  
Dickey, Leslie J., Sgt. 1cl  
Drier, Walter A., Pvt.  
Dyer, Charles H., Cpl.  
Earnshaw, Edward P., Pvt.  
Finch, Robert W., Pvt.  
Fleitz, B. L., Pvt.  
Fletcher, Harry R., Pvt.  
Fotuski, Anthony E., Sgt. 1cl  
Ginzberg, Henry, Pvt.  
Goodman, Lawrence A., Sgt.  
Gray, Marvin A., Sgt.  
Gwinnup, Carl, Sgt. 1cl  
Hamersmith, Robert H., Pvt.  
Hankison, Robert W., Pvt.  
Harris, George W., Pvt. 1cl  
Harr, Thomas B., Pvt.  
Hedington, Alva E., Sgt.  
Hess, Hans, Pvt.  
Hunerberg, Nathan, Pvt.  
Huntley, Raymond, J., Pvt.  
Jackson, William T., Pvt.  
Johnson, Lloyd H., Wag.  
Johnson, Edward, Pvt.  
Johnson, Oscar J., Sgt.  
Joines, Walter D., Sgt.  
Jorgansen, Marcus K., Wag.  
Kaiser, Gilbert S., Pvt. 1cl  
King, Archier P., Pvt.  
Knudsen, James A., Cpl.  
LaPlante, Lionel, Pvt.  
Ledoux, Wilfred, Pvt.  
Lee, Leslie L., Sgt.  
Linscome, Graydon, Pvt.  
Livingston, Duncan, Cpl.  
Lynch, Frank, Pvt.  
Martin, William H., Sgt.  
Mattheyer, E., Sgt.  
McDonald, John W., Sgt.  
McHan, John H., Pvt.  
Mechin, Vance W., Sgt.  
Menglo, Adam J., Pvt.  
Merck, Clyde, Pvt.  
Merrill, Leo Foss, Sgt.  
Nixdorf, Edward A., Pvt.  
Moulton, Walter E., Bug.  
Mockbee, Jack D., Sgt.  
Murray, Francis, Sgt.  
Noble, Allen G., Sgt.  
Novak, Frank X., Sgt.  
North, Frank A., Sgt.  
Odom, Don C., Wag.  
Ohlman, George R., Pvt.  
Payne, Dewey, Pvt. 1cl  
Phair, Martin, Pvt.  
Phillips, Otho, Pvt.  
Pulsford, Alfred L., Pvt.  
Ripple, Frank C., Pvt.  
Roose, Brian H., Cpl.  
Sampler, Samuel L., Sgt.  
Sandville, L. F., Pvt.  
Scott, James H., Pvt.  
Schnitzer, Harry E., Pvt.  
Smith, Clifford Austin, Pvt.  
Spiro, Ralph B., Pvt.  
Steffanus, Emil E., Wag.  
Swieringa, Andrew, Wag.  
Symonds, Walter P., Pvt. 1cl  
Utman, Clyde R., Wag.  
Unrath, Carl, Sgt.  
Vorides, Spyridon, Pvt.  
Voss, George, Wag.  
Wagner, Theodore, Pvt. 1cl  
Wellinghoff, Joseph, Cook  
Werble, Herman, Pvt.  
Wysong, Ray R., Pvt.  
Whitney, Carl C., Pvt.

## CATALOGUE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

**T**AKEN under direction of Blanche C. Grant, Lincoln, Nebraska, by Army Signal Corps Photographers George Shock, Alliance, Ohio, and Clarence Sper, New York City, and by Wm. Rugg, Y. M. C. A.

**NOTE:** All negatives of photographs listed in this catalog were turned over to the historical department of the Paris Headquarters properly numbered and indexed. All records of that office were sent to the New York office and requests for prints from any of these negatives should be sent to Historical Bureaus Y. M. C. A.—A. E. F., 347 Madison Avenue, New York City. Numbers given here correspond with the numbers of the respective negatives.

## HEADQUARTERS GROUP

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4. Doorway of Headquarters
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6. Yard With All Hdqrs. Autos and Drivers—June Only
7. Transportation Office Exterior
8. Office of Women's Bureau
9. Women Welfare Workers With General Pershing
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12. Entertainment Director and Staff
13. A. L. A. Library

## Y. D. HUT GROUP

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“Fini”



### FRENCH HELPERS

SPECIAL recognition is here accorded to the many splendid French people of Le Mans who so faithfully served the Association there. These lists would not be complete without a record of the following four, who in their capacity as interpreters, made possible the fine feeling and understanding which developed between the French and Americans:

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This compilation of the Summary of Service falls into four main sections.

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SECTION TWO—Beginning with page 19 deals with work in and about Le Mans proper. The Forwarding Camp, the Belgian Camp and ten separate camps and units which made up what was known as the Depot Division. Also the various departments, bureaus and activities handled on a regional basis.

SECTION THREE—Beginning with page 141 carries the stories of the outlying billeting areas with the high lights on the particular Divisions or Army units that at various times occupied the area.

SECTION FOUR—Beginning with page 188 contains some commendatory letters from military sources together with an alphabetical list of personnel of secretaries serving in the region and a catalog of the photographic record of the work.











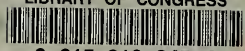








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